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HOUSE BILL NO. 2181

Offered January 11, 2017

Prefiled January 11, 2017

A BILL to amend and reenact § 63.2-505.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to food stamp eligibility; drug-related felonies.

Patrons—Sickles, Boysko, Hester, Hope, Kory, Krizek, Levine, Lindsey, Plum, Rasoul, Simon and Watts

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 63.2-505.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 63.2-505.2. Eligibility for food stamps; drug-related felonies.**

A person who is otherwise eligible to receive food stamp benefits shall be exempt from the application of section 115(a) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193, and shall not be denied such assistance solely because he has been convicted of a felony offense of possession of a controlled substance in violation of § 18.2-250 *or a first-time felony offense of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance in violation of § 18.2-248*, provided *that* such person (i) is complying with, or has already complied with, all obligations imposed by the criminal court;; (ii) is actively engaged in or has completed a substance abuse treatment program;; (iii) participates in periodic drug screenings;; and (iv) *is complying with, or has already complied with,* any other obligations as determined by the Department.

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HB2181