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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2247**

Offered January 11, 2017

Prefiled January 11, 2017

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 4.1-101.05, as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority; eligibility of employees for Workforce Transition Act.*

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 Patron—Jones
 

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Referred to Committee on Appropriations

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 4.1-101.05, as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 4.1-101.05. (Effective July 1, 2018) Employees of the Authority.**

A. Employees of the Authority shall be considered employees of the Commonwealth. Employees of the Authority shall be eligible for membership in the Virginia Retirement System and participation in all health and related insurance and other benefits, including premium conversion and flexible benefits, available to state employees as provided by law. Employees of the Authority shall be employed on such terms and conditions as established by the Board. The Board shall develop and adopt policies and procedures that afford its employees grievance rights, ensure that employment decisions shall be based upon the merit and fitness of applicants, and prohibit discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, or disability.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Authority shall give preference in hiring to employees of the former Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The Authority shall issue a written notice to all persons whose employment at the former Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control will be transferred to the Authority. The date upon which such written notice is issued shall be referred to herein as the "Option Date." Each person whose employment will be transferred to the Authority may, by written request made within 180 days of the Option Date, elect not to become employed by the Authority. Any employee of the former Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control who (i) ~~elects not to become employed by the Authority and who is not reemployed by any department, institution, board, commission, or agency of the Commonwealth;~~ (ii) is not offered the opportunity to transfer to employment by the Authority; or (iii) (ii) is not offered a position with the Authority for which the employee is qualified or is offered a position that requires relocation or a reduction in salary; shall be eligible for the severance benefits conferred by the provisions of the Workforce Transition Act (§ 2.2-3200 et seq.). Any employee who accepts employment with the Authority shall not be considered to be involuntarily separated from state employment and shall not be eligible for the severance benefits conferred by the provisions of the Workforce Transition Act.

C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any person whose employment is transferred to the Authority as a result of this section and who is a member of any plan for providing health insurance coverage pursuant to Chapter 28 (§ 2.2-2800 et seq.) of Title 2.2 shall continue to be a member of such health insurance plan under the same terms and conditions as if no transfer had occurred.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any person whose employment is transferred to the Authority as a result of this section and who is a member of the Virginia Retirement System or other retirement plan as authorized by Article 4 (§ 51.1-125 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of Title 51.1 shall continue to be a member of the Virginia Retirement System or other such authorized retirement plan under the same terms and conditions as if no transfer had occurred.

INTRODUCED

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