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HOUSE BILL NO. 566**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
on January 28, 2020)

(Patrons Prior to Substitute—Delegates Guzman, Bagby [HB 786], Lopez [HB 1130], Scott [HB 391], and
Ward [HB 814]))

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 63.2-505.2 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia
by adding a section numbered 63.2-607.1, relating to eligibility for food stamps and TANF;
drug-related felonies.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

**1. That § 63.2-505.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of
Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 63.2-607.1 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 *federal* 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 *drug-related* felony offense of possession of a controlled substance in violation of
~~§ 18.2-250~~, provided such person is complying with, or has already complied with, all obligations
imposed by the criminal court, is actively engaged in or has completed a substance abuse treatment
program, participates in periodic drug screenings, and any other obligations as determined by the
Department.

§ 63.2-607.1. Eligibility for TANF; drug-related felonies.

A person who is otherwise eligible to receive TANF assistance shall be exempt from the application
of § 115(a)(1) of the *federal* 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
drug-related felony.