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**HOUSE BILL NO. 94**

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 6, 2022

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 6 of Chapter 14 of Title 51.5 a section numbered 51.5-151.1, relating to the Public Guardianship and Conservator Ombudsman Office.*

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Patron—Head

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Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 6 of Chapter 14 of Title 51.5 a section numbered 51.5-151.1 as follows:**

**§ 51.5-151.1. Public Guardianship and Conservator Ombudsman Office.**

A. *The Commissioner shall establish a Public Guardianship and Conservator Ombudsman Office (the Office) within the Department to:*

1. *Assist members of the public in understanding the public guardianship process and make available to the public information regarding public guardianship, including the rights and responsibilities of public guardians and individuals subject to public guardianship;*

2. *Provide information to the public regarding local and regional public guardian and conservator programs in the Commonwealth;*

3. *Receive complaints regarding public guardians, provide referrals to public and private agencies and other entities for assistance in resolving the issue giving rise to the complaint, and provide information regarding how to navigate the complaint process; and*

4. *Collect data regarding the number of inquiries and complaints received, the types of assistance provided, and the disposition of the matter, if known.*

B. *The Department shall make information about the Office, including information regarding how to contact the Office and the types of services provided by the Office, available on a website maintained by the Department. The Department shall also disseminate information regarding the Office, including contact information and the types of service provided by the Office, to all adults for whom a public guardian is appointed and all adults residing in long-term care facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other congregate care settings.*

INTRODUCED

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