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**HOUSE BILL NO. 76**

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled December 26, 2023

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 19.2-197 of the Code of Virginia, relating to foreman of grand jury; oaths of jurors and witnesses.*

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Patron—Watts

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Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

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

**1. That § 19.2-197 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 19.2-197. Foreman of grand jury; oaths of jurors and witnesses.**

~~From~~ *The court shall select a foreman from among the persons summoned who attend the court shall select a foreman who shall be sworn as follows: "You shall Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will diligently inquire into, and true presentment make, of carefully consider all such matters as may be given you in charge, or come to your knowledge, touching the that come to your attention concerning this present service. You shall present, and do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will indict no person through prejudice or ill-will, nor leave any unrepresented unindicted through fear or favor, but in all your presentments you shall will present the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth- So, (so help you God-)" The other grand jurors shall afterwards be sworn as follows: "The same oath that your foreman has taken on his part, do you and each of you shall solemnly swear (or affirm) that you will observe and keep the same on your part- So, (so help you God-)" Any witness testifying before the grand jury may be sworn by the foreman.*

INTRODUCED

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