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## HOUSE BILL NO. 27

Offered January 12, 1994

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 15 of Title 15.1 a section numbered 15.1-740.1, relating to voter initiatives.

Patron—Callahan

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 15 of Title 15.1 a section numbered 15.1-740.1 as follows:**

*§ 15.1-740.1. Voter initiative; special elections.*

*The qualified voters of any county which has adopted the urban county executive form of government may petition the circuit court to order a special election on the adoption of an ordinance, including the amendment or repeal of any existing county ordinance. The petition shall include a complete copy of the proposed ordinance which is proposed for consideration by the voters, and the petition shall conform to the requirements of § 24.2-684.1. The petition shall include a number of signatures of qualified county voters which is at least equal to ten percent of the number of qualified county voters as determined by § 24.2-684.1.*

*If the petition is found to be in proper order, the court shall enter an order calling for the special election on the adoption of the proposed ordinance. The court order shall state the question to appear on the ballot. The special election shall be conducted at the next succeeding November general election scheduled at least sixty days after entry of the court order to hold the referendum. The special election shall be conducted and the results thereof ascertained and certified in accordance with § 24.2-684.*

*The results of the special election shall be binding, and if the ordinance is approved by a majority of those voting thereon, the ordinance shall go into effect thirty days after the results of the special election are ascertained. However, if such an election is contested and if it is determined that a majority of those voting thereon approved the ordinance, then the ordinance shall go into effect thirty days after any such contest is concluded. If more than one such ordinance is approved on the same date, by special elections authorized by this section, and if the ordinances are in conflict, then any such conflict or conflicts shall be resolved in favor of the proposal which received the greatest number of votes.*

*Any ordinance adopted by initiative may be amended or repealed by subsequent petition and special election, as authorized by this section, or in the manner provided by § 15.1-504. No special election shall be held pursuant to this section on (i) any administrative or executive matter, including, but not limited to, any claim against the county, any personnel decision or dispute affecting any particular employee or employees, or any matter related to taxation or the expenditure of public funds or (ii) any zoning or rezoning of any particular parcel or parcels of land.*

INTRODUCED

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