

1997 SESSION

INTRODUCED

977513323

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2256**

Offered January 17, 1997

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 57-2.01 the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.1-24.2, relating to the recognition of the Virginia Act for Religious Freedom and its celebration and to the designation of a Commonwealth Day of Prayer.*

Patrons—Landes, Abbitt, Baker, Bloxom, Callahan, Cantor, Christian, Councill, Cox, Crouch, Deeds, Diamonstein, Dickinson, Drake, Forbes, Griffith, Guest, Howell, Johnson, Jones, D.C., Keating, Marshall, McClure, McDonnell, Mims, Morgan, Moss, O'Brien, Orrock, Parrish, Purkey, Putney, Reid, Rhodes, Rollison, Ruff, Rust, Sherwood, Tata, Thomas, Wardrup, Way, Weatherholtz and Wilkins; Senators: Benedetti, Hanger, Maxwell, Miller, K.G. and Saslaw

Referred to Committee on Rules

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

**1. That § 57-2.01 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 2.1-24.2 as follows:**

*§ 2.1-24.2. Commonwealth Day of Prayer.*

*The first Thursday in May of each year shall be designated the "Commonwealth Day of Prayer" and shall be a day on which the people of this Commonwealth may turn to God in prayer and meditation and may celebrate the religious freedom secured for them by the laws of this Commonwealth and nation.*

*§ 57-2.01. Religious Freedom Week and Day.*

On the 200th Anniversary of the enactment of the Virginia Act for Religious Freedom, the 1986 Virginia General Assembly commends their eighteenth century predecessors for their wisdom and foresight and declares that from this date forth, the second full week of every January is designated as Religious Freedom Week in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

*In addition, the date of the passage of the Virginia Act for Religious Freedom merits special commemoration and celebration in the Commonwealth and nation. For this purpose, the sixteenth day of January of each year shall be designated "Religious Freedom Day."*

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