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HOUSE BILL NO. 1664

Offered January 13, 1999

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 17.1-504 and to repeal Chapter 378 of the 1998 Acts of Assembly, relating to the Virginia Supreme Court; uniform statewide formatting standards for cover sheets on deeds and other instruments.

Patrons—Bennett, Almand, Brink, Clement, May, McClure, Phillips, Plum, Purkey, Shuler and Watts

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 17.1-504 as follows:**

§ 17.1-504. Supreme Court to adopt uniform statewide formatting standards for cover sheets on deeds or other instruments.

A. On or before December 1, 1999, the Supreme Court shall adopt uniform statewide formatting standards for cover sheets submitted with deeds and other instruments conveying or relating to an interest in real property filed in the circuit courts. After such uniform standards are adopted, a circuit court clerk may request, but shall not require, that a cover sheet be submitted with any deed or other instrument conveying or relating to an interest in real property.

B. The cover page shall not be included as a page for determining the amount of any applicable filing fees pursuant to subdivision 2 of § 17.1-275 nor shall the cover sheet be construed to convey title to any interest in real property or purport to be a document in the chain of title conveying any interest in real property. Information submitted on the cover sheet shall be used by the clerk for the purpose of properly indexing such deed or instrument.

C. The uniform standards shall be adopted in consultation with, and may be amended from time to time upon the recommendation of, the Virginia Circuit Court Clerks' Association.

2. That, effective December 1, 1999, Chapter 378 of the 1998 Acts of Assembly is repealed.

INTRODUCED

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