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22 23 **SENATE BILL NO. 942**

Offered January 18, 1999

A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-71 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the cancer registry;

Patrons—Mims; Delegate: McQuigg

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 32.1-71 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

- § 32.1-71. Confidential nature of information supplied; publication; reciprocal data-sharing agreements.
- A. The Commissioner and all persons to whom information is submitted in accordance with § 32.1-70 shall keep such information confidential. No publication of any such information shall be made except in the form of statistical or other studies which do not identify individual cases.
- B. The Commissioner may enter into reciprocal data-sharing agreements with other cancer registries for the exchange of information. Upon the provision of satisfactory assurances for the preservation of the confidentiality of such information, patient-identifying information may be exchanged with other cancer registries which have entered into reciprocal data-sharing agreements with the Commissioner. However, patient-identifying information shall not be disclosed for any patient who has requested in writing that such information be kept confidential.
- C. Any person who willfully or through gross negligence makes an unauthorized disclosure in violation of this section shall be subject to the penalties defined in § 32.1-27.