

25102101D

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1826**

Offered January 13, 2025

Prefiled January 6, 2025

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-1127 of the Code of Virginia, relating to vacant building registration; civil penalty.*

Patrons—Simonds, Phillips and Green

Referred to Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

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

**1. That § 15.2-1127 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 15.2-1127. Vacant building registration; civil penalty.**

Any county, city, or town, by ordinance, may require the owner or owners of buildings that have been vacant for a continuous period of 12 months or more and (i) that meet the definition of "derelict building" under § 15.2-907.1, (ii) that meet the definition of "criminal blight" under § 15.2-907, or (iii) in which a locality has determined a person is living without the authority of the owner or owners to register such buildings on an annual basis and may impose an annual registration fee not to exceed ~~\$100~~ \$500 to defray the cost of processing such registration. The registration of buildings shall be on forms designated by the locality and filed with the agency designated by the locality. Failure to register shall be a ~~\$200~~ \$750 civil penalty; however, failure to register in conservation and rehabilitation districts designated by the governing body, or in other areas designated as blighted pursuant to § 36-49.1:1, shall be punishable by a civil penalty not exceeding ~~\$400~~ \$1,000. Notice shall be mailed to the owner or owners, at the address to which property tax notices are sent, at least 30 days prior to the assessment of the civil penalty.