

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 55.1-1260 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal the fourth enactment of*
3 *Chapter 355 and the fourth enactment of Chapter 356 of the Acts of Assembly of 2019, as amended by*
4 *Chapter 797 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022 and Chapters 32 and 42 of the Acts of Assembly of 2024,*
5 *relating to Eviction Diversion Pilot Program; name change; general application; expiration repealed.*

6 [S 830]

7 Approved

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 55.1-1260 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

10 Article 7.

11 Eviction Diversion Pilot Program.

12 **§ 55.1-1260. Establishment of Eviction Diversion Program; purpose; goals.**

13 A. There is hereby established the Eviction Diversion Pilot Program (the Program) ~~within the existing~~
14 ~~structure of the general district courts. for the cities of Danville, Hampton, Petersburg, and Richmond~~ *The*
15 *Program may be implemented by any general district court of the Commonwealth.* The purpose of the
16 Program shall be to reduce the number of evictions of low-income persons. Notwithstanding any other
17 provision of law, no eviction diversion court or program shall be established except in conformance with this
18 section.

19 B. The goals of the Program shall include (i) reducing the number of evictions of low-income persons
20 from their residential dwelling units for the failure to pay small amounts of money under the rental
21 agreement, in particular when such persons have experienced an event that adversely affected financial
22 circumstances such as the loss of employment or a medical crisis in their immediate family; (ii) reducing
23 displacement of families from their homes and the resulting adverse consequences to children who are no
24 longer able to remain in the same public school after eviction; (iii) encouraging understanding of eviction-
25 related processes and facilitating the landlord's and tenant's entering into a reasonable payment plan that
26 provides for the landlord to receive full rental payments as contracted for in the rental agreement and for the
27 tenant to have the opportunity to make current such rental payments; and (iv) encouraging tenants to make
28 rental payments in the manner as provided in the rental agreement.

29 **2. That the fourth enactment of Chapter 355 and the fourth enactment of Chapter 356 of the Acts of**
30 **Assembly of 2019, as amended by Chapter 797 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022 and Chapters 32 and 42**
31 **of the Acts of Assembly of 2024, are repealed.**

ENROLLED

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