

# 2026 SESSION

INTRODUCED

26102528D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 209**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 7, 2026

4 A BILL to direct the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Corrections to develop  
5 agency guidelines for hiring peer recovery specialists with previous criminal convictions for compensated  
6 employment.

7 Patron—Price

8 Committee Referral Pending

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

10 1. *That the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Corrections shall develop  
11 agency guidelines for hiring peer recovery specialists with previous criminal convictions for compensated  
12 employment. Such guidelines shall include provisions clarifying the requirements for employment in specific  
13 programs and positions operated by the Departments of Health and Corrections and include, at a minimum,  
14 language providing for employment of such individuals that is consistent with the provisions of § 37.2-314  
15 of the Code of Virginia granting exceptions to the list of barrier crimes for individuals hired for  
16 compensated employment at an adult mental health or adult substance abuse treatment program.*

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