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HOUSE BILL NO. 342

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 12, 2026

A BILL to amend and reenact § 17.1-917 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 3 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-43.1, relating to the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission; magistrates; availability of complaint forms in courthouses.

Patron—Martinez

Committee Referral Pending

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 17.1-917 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 3 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-43.1 as follows:

§ 17.1-917. Assistance and information; complaint forms.

A. State and local public bodies and departments, officers and employees thereof, and officials and all personnel of the courts of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with and give reasonable assistance and information to the Commission and any authorized representative thereof in connection with any investigations or proceedings within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

B. In all state courts within the Commonwealth a sign shall be posted in a location accessible to the public that notes the availability of and provides instructions to obtain a downloadable electronic version of any standardized form developed and utilized by the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission for the filing of a complaint from the official website of the judicial system of the Commonwealth. *Any standardized form developed and utilized by the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission for the filing of a complaint shall also be made available to the public in paper form in every clerk's office in all state courts of the Commonwealth. In all such courts, a sign shall be posted in a location accessible to the public that notes the availability and location of such paper forms in the office.*

§ 19.2-43.1. Complaint forms; availability in courthouses.

Any standardized form developed and utilized by the Department of Magistrate Services in the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia for the filing of a complaint against a magistrate shall be made available to the public in paper form in every clerk's office in all state courts of the Commonwealth. In all such courts, a sign shall be posted in a location accessible to the public that notes the availability and location of such paper forms in the clerk's office.