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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 514**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-2001.7, relating to Department of*
5 *Veterans Services; benefit awareness and access; program.*

6 Patron—Martinez

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 2.2-2001.7 as follows:**10 **§ 2.2-2001.7. Benefit awareness and access; program.**11 *A. The Department, in collaboration with relevant agencies of the Commonwealth, localities, and service*
12 *providers, shall develop a comprehensive outreach program for military service members transitioning from*
13 *military to civilian life, veterans, members of the Virginia National Guard, residents of the Commonwealth in*
14 *the Armed Forces Reserves, and their family members. The purpose of such program is to ensure such*
15 *individuals are aware of and can easily access federal, state, and local benefits and other programs and*
16 *services available to them.*17 *B. The Commissioner shall include the outcomes of the program in the annual report submitted to the*
18 *Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, the Governor, and the General Assembly pursuant to § 2.2-2004.*
19 *The report shall include outreach initiatives facilitated pursuant to the program and the outcomes of such*
20 *initiatives.*

INTRODUCED

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