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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1191**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 14, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-231.30 of the Code of Virginia, relating to utility consumer services*
5 *cooperatives; substation construction.*

6 Patron—Shin

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 56-231.30 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**10 **§ 56-231.30. Rights and liabilities of members.**11 A cooperative may have one or more classes of members. If the cooperative has more than one class of
12 members, the designation of each class and the qualifications and rights of the members of each class shall be
13 set forth in the bylaws of the cooperative.14 B. A cooperative shall issue to its members certificates of membership and each member shall be entitled
15 to only one vote at the meetings of the members of the cooperative. The liability of each member shall be
16 limited to the unpaid portion of his membership fee or subscription to capital stock, and any unpaid bills for
17 utility services or other services, commodities or merchandise purchased from the cooperative, provided that
18 nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the exposure of any unrefunded patronage capital to the
19 lawful creditors of a cooperative. The equity of members of a nonstock cooperative shall be set by the board
20 in accordance with cooperative principles. A cooperative shall be operated on a not-for-profit basis, with the
21 exception of for-profit affiliates, for the mutual benefit of the members. The bylaws of a cooperative or its
22 contract with the members shall contain such provisions relative to the disposition of margins as may be
23 necessary and appropriate to establish and maintain its nonprofit and cooperative character.24 C. A member of a cooperative in good standing that had an electric demand of more than twenty
25 megawatts during the most recent calendar year and that requires the delivery of service at a voltage of 34.5
26 kilovolts at its point of interconnection with a transmission line system of at least 230 kilovolts may petition
27 the Commission to (i) construct and install a substation in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations,
28 and reliability standards, as determined by the Commission and (ii) transfer ownership of such substation to
29 the cooperative prior to its operation. As part of such petition, the member shall establish an agreement with
30 the cooperative regarding reasonable and necessary terms and conditions for such construction, installation,
31 and transfer and any applicable modifications to the cooperative's tariff to reflect the revised cost of service.
32 Such agreement shall be subject to the Commission's review and approval.