

2026 SESSION

INTRODUCED

26104509D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1299**

2 Offered January 15, 2026

3 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 1-243.1, relating to rules of*
4 *construction; use of "shall."*

5 Patron—Delaney

6 _____
7 Committee Referral Pending
8 _____

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

10 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 1-243.1 as follows:**

11 **§ 1-243.1. Shall.**

12 "Shall" establishes a mandatory requirement and is not merely directory, unless the statute expressly
13 provides otherwise.

INTRODUCED

HB1299