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SENATE BILL NO. 628

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 14, 2026

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 8 of Title 36 a section numbered 36-140.02, relating to Department of Housing and Community Development; Eviction Reduction Program; report.*

Patron—Locke

Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 8 of Title 36 a section numbered 36-140.02 as follows:

§ 36-140.02. Eviction Reduction Program; report.

A. *The Department shall establish the Eviction Reduction Program (the Program) to (i) promote housing stability, (ii) identify barriers that contribute to eviction filings, (iii) provide interventions to prevent or divert evictions, and (iv) carry out any efforts to support eviction prevention and diversion consistent with this section and guidelines adopted by the Department. The Department shall develop criteria and guidelines necessary to administer the Program, including program participation eligibility standards, application procedures, and award procedures.*

B. *In administering the Program, the Department shall work in collaboration with the Eviction Diversion Program (§ 55.1-1260 et seq.) to coordinate eviction prevention and diversion support and to maximize housing stability outcomes.*

C. *On or before October 1 of each year, the Department shall report to the General Assembly on (i) the number of households served and the outcomes for such households, (ii) the types of assistance provided, (iii) the geographic distribution of the Program, and (iv) any legislative recommendations it has to help further the goals of the Program.*

D. *Nothing in this section shall be construed to impair or affect any rights, obligations, agreements, or actions taken by the Department pursuant to the Eviction Reduction Program prior to the enactment of the provisions under this section.*

INTRODUCED

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