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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 2727**

2 Offered January 16, 2019

3 A *BILL to amend and reenact § 19.2-354 of the Code of Virginia, relating to inmates; local correctional*
4 *facilities; community service work in lieu of payment for fines and court costs.*

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6 Patrons—Hayes and Jones, J.C.

7 Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

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9 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**10 **1. That § 19.2-354 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**11 **§ 19.2-354. Authority of court to order payment of fine, costs, forfeitures, penalties or**
12 **restitution in installments or upon other terms and conditions; community work in lieu of**
13 **payment.**14 A. Whenever (i) a defendant, convicted of a traffic infraction or a violation of any criminal law of
15 the Commonwealth or of any political subdivision thereof, or found not innocent in the case of a
16 juvenile, is sentenced to pay a fine, restitution, forfeiture or penalty and (ii) the defendant is unable to
17 make payment of the fine, restitution, forfeiture, or penalty and costs within 30 days of sentencing, the
18 court shall order the defendant to pay such fine, restitution, forfeiture or penalty and any costs which the
19 defendant may be required to pay in deferred payments or installments. The court assessing the fine,
20 restitution, forfeiture, or penalty and costs may authorize the clerk to establish and approve individual
21 deferred or installment payment agreements. If the defendant owes court-ordered restitution and enters
22 into a deferred or installment payment agreement, any money collected pursuant to such agreement shall
23 be used first to satisfy such restitution order and any collection costs associated with restitution prior to
24 being used to satisfy any other fine, forfeiture, penalty, or cost owed. Any payment agreement
25 authorized under this section shall be consistent with the provisions of § 19.2-354.1, including any
26 required minimum payments or other required conditions. The requirements set forth in § 19.2-354.1
27 shall be posted in the clerk's office and on the court's website, if a website is available. As a condition
28 of every such agreement, a defendant who enters into an installment or deferred payment agreement
29 shall promptly inform the court of any change of mailing address during the term of the agreement. If
30 the defendant is unable to make payment within 90 days of sentencing, the court may assess a one-time
31 fee not to exceed \$10 to cover the costs of management of the defendant's account until such account is
32 paid in full. This one-time fee shall not apply to cases in which costs are assessed pursuant to
33 § 17.1-275.1, 17.1-275.2, 17.1-275.3, 17.1-275.4, 17.1-275.7, 17.1-275.8, or 17.1-275.9. Installment or
34 deferred payment agreements shall include terms for payment if the defendant participates in a program
35 as provided in subsection B or C. The court, if such sum or sums are not paid in full by the date
36 ordered, shall proceed in accordance with § 19.2-358.37 B. When a person sentenced to the Department of Corrections or a local correctional facility owes
38 any fines, costs, forfeitures, restitution or penalties, he shall be required as a condition of participating in
39 any work release, home/electronic incarceration or nonconsecutive days program as set forth in
40 § 53.1-60, 53.1-131, 53.1-131.1, or 53.1-131.2 to either make full payment or make payments in
41 accordance with his installment or deferred payment agreement while participating in such program. If,
42 after the person has an installment or deferred payment agreement, the person fails to pay as ordered,
43 his participation in the program may be terminated until all fines, costs, forfeitures, restitution and
44 penalties are satisfied. The Director of the Department of Corrections and any sheriff or other
45 administrative head of any local correctional facility shall withhold such ordered payments from any
46 amounts due to such person. Distribution of the money collected shall be made in the following order of
47 priority to:48 1. Meet the obligation of any judicial or administrative order to provide support and such funds shall
49 be disbursed according to the terms of such order;
50 2. Pay any restitution as ordered by the court;
51 3. Pay any fines or costs as ordered by the court;
52 4. Pay travel and other such expenses made necessary by his work release employment or
53 participation in an education or rehabilitative program, including the sums specified in § 53.1-150; and
54 5. Defray the offender's keep.55 The balance shall be credited to the offender's account or sent to his family in an amount the
56 offender so chooses.57 The Board of Corrections shall promulgate regulations governing the receipt of wages paid to
58 persons participating in such programs, the withholding of payments and the disbursement of appropriate

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59 funds.

60 C. The court shall establish a program and ~~may~~ *shall* provide an option to any person upon whom a
61 fine and costs have been imposed to discharge all or part of the fine or costs by earning credits for the
62 performance of community service work ~~before or after imprisonment~~. *If such person is incarcerated in*
63 *a local correctional facility or regional jail facility, such person may perform community service work*
64 *during his period of confinement as authorized by the court.* The program shall specify the rate at which
65 credits are earned and provide for the manner of applying earned credits against the fine or costs. The
66 court assessing the fine or costs against a person shall inform such person of the availability of earning
67 credit toward discharge of the fine or costs through the performance of community service work under
68 this program and provide such person with written notice of terms and conditions of this program. The
69 court shall have such other authority as is reasonably necessary for or incidental to carrying out this
70 program.

71 D. When the court has authorized deferred payment or installment payments, the clerk shall give
72 notice to the defendant that upon his failure to pay as ordered he may be fined or imprisoned pursuant
73 to § 19.2-358 and his privilege to operate a motor vehicle will be suspended pursuant to § 46.2-395.

74 E. The failure of the defendant to enter into a deferred payment or installment payment agreement
75 with the court or the failure of the defendant to make payments as ordered by the agreement shall allow
76 the Tax Commissioner to act in accordance with § 19.2-349 to collect all fines, costs, forfeitures and
77 penalties.