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**HOUSE BILL NO. 214**

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 10, 2022

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 36-4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to redevelopment and housing authorities; naming convention.*

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Patron—Robinson

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Referred to Committee on General Laws

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**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 36-4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 36-4. Creation of redevelopment and housing authorities.**

In each locality there is hereby created a political subdivision of the Commonwealth, with such public and corporate powers as are set forth in this chapter, to be known ~~respectively~~ as the "~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ (insert name of locality) ~~Redevelopment and Housing Authority~~" by an appropriate name and title to be determined by each locality (hereinafter referred to as "authority"); provided, however, that any authority not now activated shall not transact any business or exercise any powers authorized under this chapter until or unless the qualified voters of such locality shall, by a majority vote of such qualified voters voting in a referendum held as provided in § 36-4.1, ~~have indicated~~ *indicate* a need for an authority to function in such locality. The referendum to determine whether or not there is a need for an authority to function (i) may be called by the governing body by resolution or (ii) shall be called by the governing body upon the filing of a petition signed by at least two percent of the qualified voters registered in the jurisdiction, asserting that there is need for an authority to function in such locality and requesting the governing body to call such referendum.

The governing body may by resolution call for a referendum to determine whether there is need for an authority in the locality if the governing body believes it is appropriate for one of the reasons set out in § 36-2. In the case of a town located within the county, the town council shall first obtain the concurrence of the governing body of the county and the county redevelopment and housing authority prior to scheduling a referendum.

In any suit, action, or proceeding involving the validity or enforcement of or relating to any contract of the authority, the authority shall be conclusively deemed to have become established and authorized to transact business and exercise its powers hereunder if the voters of the locality have so indicated in a referendum held pursuant to § 36-4.1, that there is need for the authority.

INTRODUCED

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