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HOUSE BILL NO. 746

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 11, 2022

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 2 of Title 9.1 a section numbered 9.1-208.1, relating to the Volunteer Fire Department Training Fund.*

Patron—Bell

Committee Referral Pending

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 2 of Title 9.1 a section numbered 9.1-208.1 as follows:

§ 9.1-208.1. Volunteer Fire Department Training Fund.

There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Volunteer Fire Department Training Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of assisting or reimbursing volunteer fire departments or volunteer fire companies with the costs of training and certifying volunteer firefighters. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Executive Director of the Department of Fire Programs.

2. That the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security shall establish a workgroup composed of the Executive Director of the Department of Fire Programs; the State Fire Marshal; a volunteer fire department chief; a volunteer firefighter; and such other stakeholders as the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security shall deem appropriate to study the accessibility and availability of training programs with a specific focus on providing training programs to volunteer fire departments, volunteer fire companies, and volunteer firefighters in a cost-efficient and effective manner.

INTRODUCED

HB746