

HOUSE BILL NO. 377

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns

on \_\_\_\_\_)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Subramanyam)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-953 of the Code of Virginia, relating to charitable institutions and associations; local appropriations to faith-based organizations.

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

**1. That § 15.2-953 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 15.2-953. Donations to charitable institutions and associations, volunteer and nonprofit organizations, chambers of commerce, etc.**

A. Any locality may make appropriations of public funds, of personal property or of any real estate and donations to the Virginia Indigent Health Care Trust Fund and to any charitable institution or association, located within their respective limits or outside their limits if such institution or association provides services to residents of the locality; however, such institution or association shall not be controlled in whole or in part by any church or sectarian society. The words "sectarian society" shall not be construed to mean a nondenominational Young Men's Christian Association, a nondenominational Young Women's Christian Association, Habitat for Humanity, or the Salvation Army. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any county or city from making contracts with any sectarian institution for the care of indigent, sick or injured persons. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any locality may make appropriations of public funds to any faith-based organization that is exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that provides community services within the locality for secular purposes without regard to the religious affiliation of the recipients of such services. Nothing in this section shall be construed to absolve any existing obligation created by the provisions of § 2.2-3904.

26 B. Any locality may make gifts and donations of property, real or personal, or money to (i) any  
27 charitable institution or nonprofit or other organization providing housing for persons 60 years of age or  
28 older or operating a hospital or nursing home; (ii) any association or other organization furnishing  
29 voluntary firefighting services; (iii) any nonprofit or volunteer emergency medical services agency, within  
30 or outside the boundaries of the locality; (iv) any nonprofit recreational association or organization; (v)  
31 any nonprofit organization providing recreational or daycare services to persons 65 years of age or older;  
32 or (vi) any nonprofit association or organization furnishing services to beautify and maintain communities  
33 or to prevent neighborhood deterioration. Gifts or donations of property, real or personal, or money by  
34 any locality to any nonprofit association, recreational association, or organization described in provision  
35 (iv), (v), or (vi) may be made provided the nonprofit association, recreational association, or organization  
36 is not controlled in whole or in part by any church or sectarian society. Donations of property or money  
37 to any such charitable, nonprofit or other hospital or nursing home, institution or organization or nonprofit  
38 recreational associations or organizations may be made for construction purposes, for operating expenses,  
39 or both.

40 A locality may make like gifts and donations to chambers of commerce which are nonprofit and  
41 nonsectarian.

42 A locality may make like gifts, donations and appropriations of money to industrial development  
43 authorities for the purposes of promoting economic development.

44 A locality may make like gifts and donations to any and all public and private nonprofit  
45 organizations and agencies engaged in commemorating historical events.

46 A locality may make like gifts and donations to any nonprofit organization that is exempt from  
47 taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is engaged in providing energy efficiency  
48 services or promoting energy efficiency within or without the boundaries of the locality.

49 A locality may make like gifts and donations to any nonprofit organization that is exempt from  
50 taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is engaged in providing emergency relief to  
51 residents, including providing the repair or replacement of private property damaged or destroyed by a  
52 natural disaster.

53 A locality may make like gifts and donations to nonprofit foundations established to support the  
54 locality's public parks, libraries, and law enforcement. For the purposes of this paragraph, "donations" to  
55 any such foundation shall include the lawful provision of in-kind resources.

56 A locality may make monetary gifts, donations, and appropriations of money to a public institution  
57 of higher education in the Commonwealth that provides services to such locality's residents.

58 Public library materials that are discarded from their collections may be given to nonprofit  
59 organizations that support library functions, including, but not limited to, friends of the library, library  
60 advisory boards, library foundations, library trusts and library boards of trustees.

61 C. Any locality may make gifts and donations of personal property and may deliver such gifts and  
62 donations to another governmental entity in or outside of the Commonwealth within the United States.

63 D. Any locality may by ordinance provide for payment to any volunteer emergency medical  
64 services agency that meets the required minimum standards for such volunteer emergency medical  
65 services agency set forth in the ordinance a sum for each rescue call the volunteer emergency medical  
66 services agency makes for an automobile accident in which a person has been injured on any of the  
67 highways or streets in the locality. In addition, unless otherwise prohibited by law, any locality may make  
68 appropriations of money to volunteer fire companies or any volunteer emergency medical services agency  
69 in an amount sufficient to enroll any qualified member of such volunteer fire company or emergency  
70 medical services agency in any program available within the locality intended to defray out-of-pocket  
71 expenses for transportation by an emergency medical services vehicle.

72 E. For the purposes of this section, "donations" shall include the lawful provision of in-kind  
73 resources for any event sponsored by the donee and, with respect to any association or other organization  
74 furnishing voluntary firefighting services or a nonprofit or volunteer emergency medical services agency,  
75 the provision of in-kind resources for contract management services for capital projects; assistance in  
76 preparing requests for information, bids, or proposals; and budgeting services.

77 F. Nothing in this section shall be construed to obligate any locality to appropriate funds to any  
78 entity. Such charitable contribution shall be voluntary.

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