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SENATE BILL NO. 207

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice

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

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Diggs)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 9.1-116.01, relating to universal certification for certain law-enforcement officers.

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 9.1-116.01 as follows:**

**§ 9.1-116.01. Universal certification for certain law-enforcement officers.**

Any sworn law-enforcement officer with at least one year of law enforcement experience (i) whose training qualifications meet or exceed current training standards established by the Board in accordance with this article and who is in compliance with §§ 15.2-1705 and 15.2-1706, (ii) who has not had a break in service of more than 24 months, and (iii) who is leaving the transferring law-enforcement agency in good standing with no pending investigations or disciplinary actions shall be eligible for employment at any law-enforcement agency within the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof. Any such law-enforcement officer shall complete any other training as determined to be necessary by the Board to ensure understanding of the criminal laws and all other laws of the Commonwealth. The hiring law-enforcement agency shall be in compliance with subsection B of § 15.2-1705 prior to any conditional offer of employment. The hiring agency shall employ all reasonable means to obtain personnel records for law-enforcement officers transferring from an out-of-state or federal law-enforcement agency. Any sworn law-enforcement officer may be granted an exemption in accordance with the provisions of § 9.1-116 and may be subject to the compulsory minimum training standards established by the Board.

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