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HOUSE BILL NO. 972  
 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
 (Proposed by the House Committee for Courts of Justice  
 on \_\_\_\_\_)  
 (Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Lopez)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-271.7, relating to prohibiting inquiry into the immigration status of defendant; notification of consequences.

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

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 16 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-271.7 as follows:**

**§ 19.2-271.7. Prohibiting inquiry into the immigration status of defendant; notification of consequences.**

Prior to the start of proceedings, the court shall advise any defendant that immigration consequences, including possible detention, incarceration, or deportation connected to an immigration action, are possible if such defendant is convicted of a criminal violation of state or local law. No court or party shall inquire as to the immigration status of the defendant during any proceeding unless otherwise admissible.

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