

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-283.3, relating to weapons;*
 3 *possession prohibited in a hospital that provides mental health services or developmental services;*
 4 *penalty.*

5 [S 1110]

6 Approved

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

8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 18.2-283.3 as follows:**

9 **§ 18.2-283.3. Possession of a weapon in a hospital that provides mental health services or**
 10 **developmental services prohibited; penalty.**

11 *A. As used in this section:*

12 *"Developmental services" means the same as that term is defined in § 37.2-100.*

13 *"Hospital" means a public or private institution licensed pursuant to Chapter 5 (§ 32.1-123 et seq.) of*
 14 *Title 32.1 or Article 2 (§ 37.2-403 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 37.2.*

15 *"Location-restricted knife" means a knife with a blade over three and one-half inches.*

16 *"Mental health services" means the same as that term is defined in § 37.2-100.*

17 *B. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly and intentionally possess a (i) firearm, (ii) location-*
 18 *restricted knife, or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun weapons as defined in §*
 19 *18.2-308.1, in the building of any hospital that provides mental health services or developmental services in*
 20 *the Commonwealth, including an emergency department or other facility rendering emergency medical care.*
 21 *Any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon shall be subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and*
 22 *forfeited to the Commonwealth and disposed of as provided in § 19.2-386.28. A violation of this subsection is*
 23 *punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

24 *C. The provisions of subsection B shall not apply to (i) a person while in the actual discharge of his*
 25 *official duties as a police officer, sheriff, law-enforcement agent or official, officer or guard of any state*
 26 *correctional institution, or armed security officer; (ii) any person who has written authorization from the*
 27 *hospital, including authorization related to an employee's scope of employment; or (iii) any person brought*
 28 *into a hospital pursuant to the issuance of an emergency custody order or involuntary detention order under*
 29 *the provisions of Article 4 (§ 37.2-808 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 37.2.*

30 *D. Notice of the provisions of this section shall be posted conspicuously at each public entrance of any*
 31 *hospital and no person shall be convicted of an offense under this section if such notice is not posted at each*
 32 *such public entrance, unless such person had actual notice of the prohibitions of this section.*

33 **2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or**
 34 **commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary**
 35 **appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities;**
 36 **therefore, Chapter 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2024, Special Session I, requires the Virginia Criminal**
 37 **Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the**
 38 **Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for**
 39 **periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.**