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1 **SENATE BILL NO. 145**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 7, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 19.2-188.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to marijuana field test; testimony*
5 *as to the results; consuming or possessing marijuana or marijuana products while in a motor vehicle or*
6 *on public school grounds.*

7 Patron—McDougle

8 Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

9 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**10 **1. That § 19.2-188.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**
11 **§ 19.2-188.1. Testimony regarding identification of controlled substances.**12 A. In any preliminary hearing on a violation of Chapter 11 (§ 4.1-1100 et seq.) of Title 4.1, Article 1
13 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2, or subdivision 6 of § 53.1-203, any law-enforcement officer
14 shall be permitted to testify as to the results of field tests that have been approved by the Department of
15 Forensic Science pursuant to regulations adopted in accordance with the Administrative Process Act
16 (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), regarding whether or not any substance the identity of which is at issue in such hearing is
17 a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, or marijuana, as defined in § 18.2-247.18 B. In any trial for a violation of § 4.1-1105.1, *4.1-1107, or 4.1-1109*, any law-enforcement officer shall be
19 permitted to testify as to the results of any marijuana field test approved as accurate and reliable by the
20 Department of Forensic Science pursuant to regulations adopted in accordance with the Administrative
21 Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), regarding whether or not any plant material, the identity of which is at issue,
22 is marijuana provided the defendant has been given written notice of his right to request a full chemical
23 analysis. Such notice shall be on a form approved by the Supreme Court and shall be provided to the
24 defendant prior to trial.25 In any case in which the person accused of a violation of § 4.1-1105.1, *4.1-1107, or 4.1-1109*, or the
26 attorney of record for the accused, desires a full chemical analysis of the alleged plant material, he may, by
27 motion prior to trial before the court in which the charge is pending, request such a chemical analysis. Upon
28 such motion, the court shall order that the analysis be performed by the Department of Forensic Science in
29 accordance with the provisions of § 18.2-247 and shall prescribe in its order the method of custody, transfer,
30 and return of evidence submitted for chemical analysis.

INTRODUCED

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