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1 SENATE BILL NO. 312

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-287.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to carrying assault firearms in
5 public areas prohibited; penalty.

6 Patrons—Ebbin and Surovell

7 Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

8 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

9 1. That § 18.2-287.4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

10 18.2-287.4. Carrying assault firearms in public areas prohibited; penalty.

11 It shall be is unlawful for any person to carry a loaded (a) any of the following on or about his person on
12 any public street, road, alley, sidewalk, or public right-of-way or in any public park or any other place of
13 whatever nature that is open to the public:14 1. A semi-automatic center-fire rifle or pistol that expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an
15 explosion of a combustible material and is equipped at the time of the offense with a magazine that will hold
16 more than 20 rounds of ammunition or designed by the manufacturer to accommodate a silencer or equipped
17 with a folding stock or (b) with a fixed magazine capacity in excess of 10 rounds;18 2. A semi-automatic center-fire rifle that expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of
19 a combustible material that has the ability to accept a detachable magazine and has one of the following
20 characteristics: (i) a folding, telescoping, or collapsible stock; (ii) a thumbhole stock or a pistol grip that
21 protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the rifle; (iii) a second handgrip or a protruding grip that can
22 be held by the non-trigger hand; (iv) a grenade launcher; or (v) a threaded barrel capable of accepting (a) a
23 sound suppressor, (b) a flash suppressor, (c) a muzzle brake, or (d) a muzzle compensator;24 3. A semi-automatic center-fire pistol that has the ability to accept a detachable magazine and has one or
25 more of the following characteristics: (i) a second handgrip or a protruding grip that can be held by the non-
26 trigger hand; (ii) the capacity to accept a magazine that attaches to the pistol outside of the pistol grip; (iii) a
27 shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles, the barrel and that permits the shooter to hold
28 the pistol with the non-trigger hand without being burned; (iv) a threaded barrel capable of accepting (a) a
29 sound suppressor, (b) a flash suppressor, (c) a barrel extender, or (d) a forward handgrip; or (v) a buffer
30 tube, an arm brace, or any other part that protrudes horizontally behind the pistol grip and is designed or
31 redesigned to allow or facilitate a firearm to be fired from the shoulder;32 4. A semi-automatic shotgun that expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a
33 combustible material that has one of the following characteristics: (i) a folding, telescoping, or collapsible
34 stock; (ii) a thumbhole stock or a pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the shotgun;
35 (iii) the ability to accept a detachable magazine; or (iv) a fixed magazine capacity in excess of seven rounds
36 or a revolving cylinder;37 5. A shotgun with a magazine that will hold more than seven rounds of the longest ammunition for which
38 it is chambered on or about his person on any public street, road, alley, sidewalk, public right-of-way, or in
39 any public park or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public in the Cities of Alexandria,
40 Chesapeake, Fairfax, Falls Church, Newport News, Norfolk, Richmond, or Virginia Beach or in the Counties
41 of Arlington, Fairfax, Henrico, Loudoun, or Prince William;

42 6. A firearm that has the capacity to accept a belt ammunition feeding device; or

43 7. A firearm that has been modified to be operable as an assault firearm as described in subdivisions 1
44 through 5.45 The provisions of this section shall not apply to law-enforcement officers, licensed security guards, in the
46 performance of their official duties, military personnel in the performance of their lawful official duties, or
47 any person having a valid concealed handgun permit any member of a cadet corps who is recognized by a
48 public institution of higher education while such member is in the performance of sanctioned military
49 training or such member is participating in an official ceremonial event for the Commonwealth, or to any
50 person actually engaged in lawful hunting or lawful recreational shooting activities at an established shooting
51 range or shooting contest.

52 Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

53 The Except for the exemption in subdivision C 2 of § 18.2-308, the exemptions set forth in §§ 18.2-308
54 and 18.2-308.016 shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the provisions of this section.55 2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or
56 commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary

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59 appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities;
60 therefore, Chapter 725 of the Acts of Assembly of 2025 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing
61 Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of
62 Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of
63 commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.