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## 1 SENATE BILL NO. 173

2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
3 (Proposed by the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice  
4 on January 26, 2026)

5 (Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Williams Graves)

6 A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-283.3, relating to weapons;  
7 possession prohibited in a hospital that provides mental health services or developmental services;  
8 penalty.

9 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

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

11   § 18.2-283.3. Possession of a weapon in a hospital that provides mental health services or  
12 developmental services prohibited; penalty.

13   A. As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

19   B. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly and intentionally possess a (i) firearm, (ii) location-  
20 restricted knife, or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun weapons as defined in  
21 § 18.2-308.1, in the building of any hospital that provides mental health services or developmental services in  
22 the Commonwealth, including an emergency department or other facility rendering emergency medical care.  
23 Any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon shall be subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and  
24 forfeited to the Commonwealth and disposed of as provided in § 19.2-386.28. A violation of this subsection is  
25 punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.26   C. The provisions of subsection B shall not apply to (i) a person while in the actual discharge of his  
27 official duties as a police officer, sheriff, law-enforcement agent or official, officer or guard of any state  
28 correctional institution, or armed security officer; (ii) any person who has written authorization from the  
29 hospital, including authorization related to an employee's scope of employment; or (iii) any person brought  
30 into a hospital pursuant to the issuance of an emergency custody order or involuntary detention order under  
31 the provisions of Article 4 (§ 37.2-808 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 37.2.32   D. Notice of the provisions of this section shall be posted conspicuously at each public entrance of any  
33 hospital and no person shall be convicted of an offense under this section if such notice is not posted at each  
34 such public entrance, unless such person had actual notice of the prohibitions of this section.35 2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or  
36 commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary  
37 appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities;  
38 therefore, Chapter 725 of the Acts of Assembly of 2025 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing  
39 Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of  
40 Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of  
41 commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.