

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-287.4 of the Code of Virginia, relating to carrying assault firearms in*
 3 *public areas prohibited; penalty.*

[S 727]

Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 18.2-287.4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 18.2-287.4. Carrying assault firearms in public areas prohibited; penalty.**

9 It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any person to carry a ~~loaded (a)~~ *any of the following on or about his person on*
 10 *any public street, road, alley, sidewalk, or public right-of-way or in any public park or any other place of*
 11 *whatever nature that is open to the public:*

12 1. A semi-automatic center-fire rifle or pistol that expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an
 13 explosion of a combustible material ~~and is equipped at the time of the offense with a magazine that will hold~~
 14 ~~more than 20 rounds of ammunition or designed by the manufacturer to accommodate a silencer or equipped~~
 15 ~~with a folding stock or (b) with a fixed magazine capacity in excess of 10 rounds;~~

16 2. A semi-automatic center-fire rifle that expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of
 17 a combustible material that has the ability to accept a detachable magazine and has one of the following
 18 characteristics: (i) a folding, telescoping, or collapsible stock; (ii) a thumbhole stock or a pistol grip that
 19 protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the rifle; (iii) a second handgrip or a protruding grip that can
 20 be held by the non-trigger hand; (iv) a grenade launcher; or (v) a threaded barrel capable of accepting (a) a
 21 sound suppressor, (b) a flash suppressor, (c) a muzzle brake, or (d) a muzzle compensator;

22 3. A semi-automatic center-fire pistol that has the ability to accept a detachable magazine and has one or
 23 more of the following characteristics: (i) a second handgrip or a protruding grip that can be held by the non-
 24 trigger hand; (ii) the capacity to accept a magazine that attaches to the pistol outside of the pistol grip; (iii) a
 25 shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles, the barrel and that permits the shooter to hold
 26 the pistol with the non-trigger hand without being burned; (iv) a threaded barrel capable of accepting (a) a
 27 sound suppressor, (b) a flash suppressor, (c) a barrel extender, or (d) a forward handgrip; or (v) a buffer
 28 tube, an arm brace, or any other part that protrudes horizontally behind the pistol grip and is designed or
 29 redesigned to allow or facilitate a firearm to be fired from the shoulder;

30 4. A semi-automatic shotgun that expels single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a
 31 combustible material that has one of the following characteristics: (i) a folding, telescoping, or collapsible
 32 stock; (ii) a thumbhole stock or a pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the shotgun;
 33 (iii) the ability to accept a detachable magazine; or (iv) a fixed magazine capacity in excess of seven rounds
 34 or a revolving cylinder;

35 5. A shotgun with a magazine that will hold more than seven rounds of the longest ammunition for which
 36 it is chambered ~~on or about his person on any public street, road, alley, sidewalk, public right-of-way, or in~~
 37 ~~any public park or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public in the Cities of Alexandria,~~
 38 ~~Chesapeake, Fairfax, Falls Church, Newport News, Norfolk, Richmond, or Virginia Beach or in the Counties~~
 39 ~~of Arlington, Fairfax, Henrico, Loudoun, or Prince William;~~

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

41 7. A firearm that has been modified to be operable as an assault firearm as described in subdivisions 1
 42 through 5.

43 The provisions of this section shall not apply to law-enforcement officers; ~~licensed security guards,~~ *in the*
 44 *performance of their official duties,* military personnel in the performance of their ~~lawful~~ *official duties,* ~~or~~
 45 ~~any person having a valid concealed handgun permit~~ *any member of a cadet corps who is recognized by a*
 46 *public institution of higher education while such member is in the performance of sanctioned military*
 47 *training or such member is participating in an official ceremonial event for the Commonwealth, or to any*
 48 *person actually engaged in lawful hunting or lawful recreational shooting activities at an established shooting*
 49 *range or shooting contest.*

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

51 ~~The Except for the exemption in subdivision C 2 of § 18.2-308, the exemptions set forth in §§ § 18.2-308~~
 52 ~~and 18.2-308.016 shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the provisions of this section.~~

53 **2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or**
 54 **commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary**
 55 **appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities;**
 56 **therefore, Chapter 725 of the Acts of Assembly of 2025 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing**

ENROLLED

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57 **Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of**
58 **Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of**
59 **commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.**