

2015 SESSION

INTRODUCED

15100439D

HOUSE BILL NO. 1311

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled November 12, 2014

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-457 and 18.2-458 of the Code of Virginia, relating to civil contempt; limits on imprisonment.*

Patron—Cole

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

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

**1. That §§ 18.2-457 and 18.2-458 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 18.2-457. Fine and imprisonment by court limited unless jury impaneled.**

A. No court shall, without a jury, for any such contempt as is mentioned in the first class embraced in § 18.2-456, impose a fine exceeding \$250 or imprison more than ~~ten~~ 10 days; but in any such case the court may, without an indictment, information or any formal pleading, impanel a jury to ascertain the fine or imprisonment proper to be inflicted and may give judgment according to the verdict.

B. *Except as otherwise provided by law, no person shall be imprisoned for more than 30 days for any civil contempt of court.*

**§ 18.2-458. Power of judge of district court to punish for contempt.**

A. A judge of a district court shall have the same power and jurisdiction as a judge of a circuit court to punish summarily for contempt, but in no case shall the fine exceed \$250, or the imprisonment exceed ~~ten~~ 10 days, for the same contempt.

B. *Except as otherwise provided by law, no person shall be imprisoned for more than 30 days for any civil contempt of court.*

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