

SENATE BILL NO. _____ HOUSE BILL NO. _____

1 A BILL to amend and reenact § 19.2-169.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to involuntary psychiatric
2 admission from local correctional facility.

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

4 **1. That § 19.2-169.6 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

5 **§ 19.2-169.6. Inpatient psychiatric hospital admission from local correctional facility.**

6 A. Any inmate of a local correctional facility who is not subject to the provisions of § 19.2-169.2
7 may be hospitalized for psychiatric treatment at a hospital designated by the Commissioner of
8 Behavioral Health and Developmental Services as appropriate for treatment of persons under criminal
9 charge if:

10 1. The court with jurisdiction over the inmate's case, if it is still pending, on the petition of the
11 person having custody over an inmate or on its own motion, holds a hearing at which the inmate is
12 represented by counsel and finds by clear and convincing evidence that (i) the inmate has a mental
13 illness; (ii) there exists a substantial likelihood that, as a result of a mental illness, the inmate will, in the
14 near future, (a) cause serious physical harm to himself or others as evidenced by recent behavior
15 causing, attempting, or threatening harm and any other relevant information or (b) suffer serious harm
16 due to his lack of capacity to protect himself from harm as evidenced by recent behavior and any other
17 relevant information; and (iii) the inmate requires treatment in a hospital rather than the local
18 correctional facility. Prior to making this determination, the court shall consider the examination
19 conducted in accordance with § 37.2-815 and the preadmission screening report prepared in accordance
20 with § 37.2-816 and conducted in-person or by means of a two-way electronic video and audio
21 communication system as authorized in § 37.2-804.1 by an employee or designee of the local
22 community services board or behavioral health authority who is skilled in the assessment and treatment
23 of mental illness, who is not providing treatment to the inmate, and who has completed a certification
24 program approved by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services as provided in
25 § 37.2-809. The examiner appointed pursuant to § 37.2-815, if not physically present at the hearing,

26 shall be available whenever possible for questioning during the hearing through a two-way electronic
27 video and audio or telephonic communication system as authorized in § 37.2-804.1. Any employee or
28 designee of the local community services board or behavioral health authority, as defined in § 37.2-809,
29 representing the board or authority that prepared the preadmission screening report shall attend the
30 hearing in person or, if physical attendance is not practicable, shall participate in the hearing through a
31 two-way electronic video and audio communication system as authorized in § 37.2-804.1. When the
32 hearing is held outside the service area of the community services board or behavioral health authority
33 that prepared the preadmission screening report, and it is not practicable for a representative of the board
34 or authority to attend or participate in the hearing, arrangements shall be made by the board or authority
35 for an employee or designee of the board or authority serving the area in which the hearing is held to
36 attend or participate on behalf of the board or authority that prepared the preadmission screening report;
37 or

38 2. Upon petition by the person having custody over an inmate, a magistrate finds probable cause
39 to believe that (i) the inmate has a mental illness; (ii) there exists a substantial likelihood that, as a result
40 of a mental illness, the inmate will, in the near future, (a) cause serious physical harm to himself or
41 others as evidenced by recent behavior causing, attempting, or threatening harm and any other relevant
42 information or (b) suffer serious harm due to his lack of capacity to protect himself from harm as
43 evidenced by recent behavior and any other relevant information; and (iii) the inmate requires treatment
44 in a hospital rather than a local correctional facility, and the magistrate issues a temporary detention
45 order for the inmate. Prior to the filing of the petition, the person having custody shall arrange for an
46 evaluation of the inmate conducted in-person or by means of a two-way electronic video and audio
47 communication system as authorized in § 37.2-804.1 by an employee or designee of the local
48 community services board or behavioral health authority who is skilled in the assessment and treatment
49 of mental illness and who has completed a certification program approved by the Department as
50 provided in § 37.2-809. After considering the evaluation of the employee or designee of the local
51 community services board or behavioral health authority, and any other information presented, and
52 finding that probable cause exists to meet the criteria, the magistrate may issue a temporary detention

53 order in accordance with the applicable procedures specified in §§ 37.2-809 through 37.2-813. The
54 person having custody over the inmate shall notify the court having jurisdiction over the inmate's case, if
55 it is still pending, and the inmate's attorney prior to the detention pursuant to a temporary detention order
56 or as soon thereafter as is reasonable.

57 Upon detention pursuant to this subdivision, a hearing shall be held either before the court
58 having jurisdiction over the inmate's case or before a district court judge or a special justice, as defined
59 in § 37.2-100, in accordance with the provisions of §§ 37.2-815 through 37.2-821, in which case the
60 inmate shall be represented by counsel as specified in § 37.2-814. The hearing shall be held within 72
61 hours of execution of the temporary detention order issued pursuant to this subdivision. If the 72-hour
62 period terminates on a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or day on which the court is lawfully closed, the
63 inmate may be detained until the close of business on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, legal
64 holiday, or day on which the court is lawfully closed. Any employee or designee of the local community
65 services board or behavioral health authority, as defined in § 37.2-809, representing the board or
66 authority that prepared the preadmission screening report shall attend the hearing in person or, if
67 physical attendance is not practicable, shall participate in the hearing through a two-way electronic
68 video and audio communication system as authorized in § 37.2-804.1. When the hearing is held outside
69 the service area of the community services board or behavioral health authority that prepared the
70 preadmission screening report, and it is not practicable for a representative of the board or authority to
71 attend or participate in the hearing, arrangements shall be made by the board or authority for an
72 employee or designee of the board or authority serving the area in which the hearing is held to attend or
73 participate on behalf of the board or authority that prepared the preadmission screening report. The
74 judge or special justice conducting the hearing may order the inmate hospitalized if, after considering
75 the examination conducted in accordance with § 37.2-815, the preadmission screening report prepared in
76 accordance with § 37.2-816, and any other available information as specified in subsection C of § 37.2-
77 817, he finds by clear and convincing evidence that (1) the inmate has a mental illness; (2) there exists a
78 substantial likelihood that, as a result of a mental illness, the inmate will, in the near future, (a) cause
79 serious physical harm to himself or others as evidenced by recent behavior causing, attempting, or

80 threatening harm and any other relevant information or (b) suffer serious harm due to his lack of
81 capacity to protect himself from harm as evidenced by recent behavior and any other relevant
82 information; and (3) the inmate requires treatment in a hospital rather than a local correctional facility.
83 The examiner appointed pursuant to § 37.2-815, if not physically present at the hearing, shall be
84 available whenever possible for questioning during the hearing through a two-way electronic video and
85 audio or telephonic communication system as authorized in § 37.2-804.1. The examination and the
86 preadmission screening report shall be admitted into evidence at the hearing.

87 B. In no event shall an inmate have the right to make application for voluntary admission as may
88 be otherwise provided in § 37.2-805 or 37.2-814 or be subject to an order for mandatory outpatient
89 treatment as provided in § 37.2-817.

90 C. If an inmate is hospitalized pursuant to this section and his criminal case is still pending, the
91 court having jurisdiction over the inmate's case may order that the admitting hospital evaluate the
92 inmate's competency to stand trial and his mental state at the time of the offense pursuant to §§ 19.2-
93 169.1 and 19.2-169.5.

94 D. An inmate may not be hospitalized longer than 30 days under subsection A unless the court
95 which has criminal jurisdiction over him or a district court judge or a special justice, as defined in §
96 37.2-100, holds a hearing and orders the inmate's continued hospitalization in accordance with the
97 provisions of subdivision A 2. If the inmate's hospitalization is continued under this subsection by a
98 court other than the court which has jurisdiction over his criminal case, the facility at which the inmate
99 is hospitalized shall notify the court with jurisdiction over his criminal case and the inmate's attorney in
100 the criminal case, if the case is still pending.

101 E. Hospitalization may be extended in accordance with subsection D for periods of 60 days for
102 inmates awaiting trial, but in no event may such hospitalization be continued beyond trial, nor shall such
103 hospitalization act to delay trial, as long as the inmate remains competent to stand trial. Hospitalization
104 may be extended in accordance with subsection D for periods of 180 days for an inmate who has been
105 convicted and not yet sentenced, or for an inmate who has been convicted of a crime and is in the
106 custody of a local correctional facility after sentencing, but in no event may such hospitalization be

107 continued beyond the date upon which his sentence would have expired had he received the maximum
108 sentence for the crime charged. Any inmate who has not completed service of his sentence upon
109 discharge from the hospital shall serve the remainder of his sentence.

110 F. For any inmate who has been convicted and not yet sentenced, or who has been convicted of a
111 crime and is in the custody of a local correctional facility after sentencing, the time the inmate is
112 confined in a hospital for psychiatric treatment shall be deducted from any term for which he may be
113 sentenced to any penal institution, reformatory or elsewhere.

114 G. Any health care provider, as defined in § 32.1-127.1:03, or other provider rendering services
115 to an inmate who is the subject of a proceeding under this section, upon request, shall disclose to a
116 magistrate, the court, the inmate's attorney, the inmate's guardian ad litem, the examiner appointed
117 pursuant to § 37.2-815, the community service board or behavioral health authority preparing the
118 preadmission screening pursuant to § 37.2-816, or the sheriff or administrator of the local correctional
119 facility any and all information that is necessary and appropriate to enable each of them to perform his
120 duties under this section. These health care providers and other service providers shall disclose to one
121 another health records and information where necessary to provide care and treatment to the inmate and
122 to monitor that care and treatment. Health records disclosed to a sheriff or administrator of the local
123 correctional facility shall be limited to information necessary to protect the sheriff or administrator of
124 the local correctional facility and his employees, the inmate, or the public from physical injury or to
125 address the health care needs of the inmate. Information disclosed to a law-enforcement officer shall not
126 be used for any other purpose, disclosed to others, or retained.

127 Any health care provider disclosing records pursuant to this section shall be immune from civil
128 liability for any harm resulting from the disclosure, including any liability under the federal Health
129 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (42 U.S.C. § 1320d et seq.), as amended, unless the person
130 or provider disclosing such records intended the harm or acted in bad faith.

131 H. Any order entered where an inmate is the subject of proceedings under this section shall
132 provide for the disclosure of medical records pursuant to subsection G. This subsection shall not
133 preclude any other disclosures as required or permitted by law.

134 I. As used in this section, "person having custody over an inmate" means the sheriff or other
135 officer in charge of the local correctional facility where the inmate is incarcerated at the time of the
136 filing of a petition for the psychiatric treatment of the inmate.

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FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY