1	SENATE BILL NO. 515
2	AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
3	(Proposed by the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice
4	on)
5	(Patron Prior to SubstituteSenator 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 or transportation; hospital that provides mental health services or developmental
8	services; 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:
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11	§ 18.2-283.3. Carrying weapon into 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.)
16	of Title 32.1 or Article 2 (§ 37.2-403 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 37.2.
17	"Mental health services" means the same as that term is defined in § 37.2-100.
18	B. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly possess in or transport into any hospital that provides
19	mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including an emergency
20	department or other facility rendering emergency medical care, any (i) firearm or other weapon designed
21	or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind; (ii) knife, except a pocket knife having a folding
22	metal blade of less than three inches; or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun
23	weapons as defined in § 18.2-308.1. Any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon shall be subject to
24	seizure by a law-enforcement officer. A violation of this subsection is punishable as a Class 1
25	misdemeanor.

C. The provisions of subsection B shall not apply to (i) any on duty police officer, sheriff, or law-
enforcement agent or official, officer or guard of any state correctional institution, or armed security
officer; (ii) any person brought into a hospital pursuant to the issuance of an emergency custody order or
involuntary detention order under the provisions of Article 4 (§ 37.2-808 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title
37.2; or (iii) any person authorized or employed by the hospital who possesses a knife within the scope of
such authorization or employment.
D. Notice of the provisions of this section shall be posted conspicuously at the public entrance of
any hospital and no person shall be convicted of an offense under this section if such notice is not posted
at such public entrance, unless such person had actual notice of the prohibitions of this section.
2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or
commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary
appropriation is for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities;
therefore, Chapter 1 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, Special Session I, requires the Virginia
Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-
19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is for
periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.
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