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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1147**

Offered January 13, 2022

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 37.2-809 and 37.2-809.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to temporary detention; alternative custody.*

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 Patron—Bell
 

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Committee Referral Pending

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

- 1. That §§ 37.2-809 and 37.2-809.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**  
**§ 37.2-809. Involuntary temporary detention; issuance and execution of order.**

A. For the purposes of this section:

"Designee of the local community services board" means an examiner designated by the local community services board who (i) is skilled in the assessment and treatment of mental illness, (ii) has completed a certification program approved by the Department, (iii) is able to provide an independent examination of the person, (iv) is not related by blood or marriage to the person being evaluated, (v) has no financial interest in the admission or treatment of the person being evaluated, (vi) has no investment interest in the facility detaining or admitting the person under this article, and (vii) except for employees of state hospitals and of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is not employed by the facility.

"Employee" means an employee of the local community services board who is skilled in the assessment and treatment of mental illness and has completed a certification program approved by the Department.

"Investment interest" means the ownership or holding of an equity or debt security, including shares of stock in a corporation, interests or units of a partnership, bonds, debentures, notes, or other equity or debt instruments.

B. A magistrate shall issue, upon the sworn petition of any responsible person, treating physician, or upon his own motion and only after an evaluation conducted in-person or by means of a two-way electronic video and audio communication system as authorized in § 37.2-804.1 by an employee or a designee of the local community services board to determine whether the person meets the criteria for temporary detention, a temporary detention order if it appears from all evidence readily available, including any recommendation from a physician, clinical psychologist, or clinical social worker treating the person, that the person (i) has a mental illness and that there exists a substantial likelihood that, as a result of mental illness, the person will, in the near future, (a) cause serious physical harm to himself or others as evidenced by recent behavior causing, attempting, or threatening harm and other relevant information, if any, or (b) suffer serious harm due to his lack of capacity to protect himself from harm or to provide for his basic human needs; (ii) is in need of hospitalization or treatment; and (iii) is unwilling to volunteer or incapable of volunteering for hospitalization or treatment. The magistrate shall also consider, if available, (a) information provided by the person who initiated emergency custody and (b) the recommendations of any treating or examining physician licensed in Virginia either verbally or in writing prior to rendering a decision. Any temporary detention order entered pursuant to this section shall provide for the disclosure of medical records pursuant to § 37.2-804.2. This subsection shall not preclude any other disclosures as required or permitted by law.

C. When considering whether there is probable cause to issue a temporary detention order, the magistrate may, in addition to the petition, consider (i) the recommendations of any treating or examining physician, psychologist, or clinical social worker licensed in Virginia, if available, (ii) any past actions of the person, (iii) any past mental health treatment of the person, (iv) any relevant hearsay evidence, (v) any medical records available, (vi) any affidavits submitted, if the witness is unavailable and it so states in the affidavit, and (vii) any other information available that the magistrate considers relevant to the determination of whether probable cause exists to issue a temporary detention order.

D. A magistrate may issue a temporary detention order without an emergency custody order proceeding. A magistrate may issue a temporary detention order without a prior evaluation pursuant to subsection B if (i) the person has been personally examined within the previous 72 hours by an employee or a designee of the local community services board or (ii) there is a significant physical, psychological, or medical risk to the person or to others associated with conducting such evaluation.

E. An employee or a designee of the local community services board shall determine the facility of temporary detention in accordance with the provisions of § 37.2-809.1 for all ~~individuals~~ persons detained pursuant to this section. An employee or designee of the local community services board may change the facility of temporary detention and may designate an alternative facility for temporary

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HB1147

detention at any point during the period of temporary detention if it is determined that the alternative facility is a more appropriate facility for temporary detention of the ~~individual~~ person given the specific security, medical, or behavioral health needs of the person. In cases in which the facility of temporary detention is changed following transfer of custody to an initial facility of temporary custody, transportation of the ~~individual~~ person to the alternative facility of temporary detention shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of § 37.2-810. The initial facility of temporary detention shall be identified on the preadmission screening report and indicated on the temporary detention order; however, if an employee or designee of the local community services board designates an alternative facility, that employee or designee shall provide written notice forthwith, on a form developed by the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, to the clerk of the issuing court of the name and address of the alternative facility. Subject to the provisions of § 37.2-809.1, if a facility of temporary detention cannot be identified by the time of the expiration of the period of emergency custody pursuant to § 37.2-808, the ~~individual~~ person shall be detained in a state facility for the treatment of ~~individuals~~ persons with mental illness and such facility shall be indicated on the temporary detention order. Except as provided in § 37.2-811 for inmates requiring hospitalization in accordance with subdivision A 2 of § 19.2-169.6, the person shall not be detained in a jail or other place of confinement for persons charged with criminal offenses ~~and~~. *Except as provided in subsection G and in § 37.2-811 for inmates requiring hospitalization in accordance with subdivision A 2 of § 19.2-169.6, the person shall remain in the custody of law enforcement until (i) the person is either detained within a secure facility or, (ii) custody has been accepted by the appropriate personnel designated by either the initial facility of temporary detention identified in the temporary detention order or by the alternative facility of temporary detention designated by the employee or designee of the local community services board pursuant to this subsection, or (iii) custody has been accepted by an employee or designee of the state facility indicated on the temporary detention order pursuant to subsection F.* The person detained or in custody pursuant to this section shall be given a written summary of the temporary detention procedures and the statutory protections associated with those procedures.

*F. If the facility indicated on the temporary detention order pursuant to subsection E is a state facility, no bed for the person is immediately available at such state facility, and an employee or designee of such state facility is available to take custody, such employee or designee of the state facility may assume custody of the person wherever the person is located. The employee or designee of the state facility who takes custody of a person pursuant to this subsection shall maintain custody of the person and shall transport the person to the state facility or to an alternative facility of temporary detention, if an alternative facility of temporary detention is designated in accordance with subsection E. Such transportation may include transportation of the person to a medical facility for medical evaluation prior to admission to the state facility or alternative facility of temporary detention if such medical evaluation is required by a physician at the admitting facility. Transportation to an alternative facility of temporary detention designated in accordance with subsection E by an employee or designee of a state facility that was identified as the initial facility of temporary detention on a temporary detention order shall be in accordance with subsection D of § 37.2-810.*

*If no employee or designee of the state facility indicated on the temporary detention order pursuant to subsection E is available to take custody of a person who is subject to a temporary detention order pursuant to this subsection, such person shall remain in law-enforcement custody until custody is transferred to the state facility or an alternative facility of temporary detention. For the purposes of this section, an employee or designee of the state facility indicated on the temporary detention order pursuant to subsection E shall be deemed unavailable to assume custody of a person who is the subject of a temporary custody order if all state funds for alternative custody have been expended.*

*G. A person who is subject to an order authorizing treatment issued in accordance with § 53.1-133.04 shall remain in law-enforcement custody at all times prior to admission to the facility designated for treatment of the person pursuant to such order.*

*H. Any facility caring for a person placed with it pursuant to a temporary detention order is authorized to provide emergency medical and psychiatric services within its capabilities when the facility determines that the services are in the best interests of the person within its care. The costs incurred as a result of the hearings and by the facility in providing services during the period of temporary detention shall be paid and recovered pursuant to § 37.2-804. The maximum costs reimbursable by the Commonwealth pursuant to this section shall be established by the State Board of Medical Assistance Services based on reasonable criteria. The State Board of Medical Assistance Services shall, by regulation, establish a reasonable rate per day of inpatient care for temporary detention.*

*G. I. The employee or the designee of the local community services board who is conducting the evaluation pursuant to this section shall determine, prior to the issuance of the temporary detention order, the insurance status of the person. Where coverage by a third party payor exists, the facility seeking reimbursement under this section shall first seek reimbursement from the third party payor. The Commonwealth shall reimburse the facility only for the balance of costs remaining after the allowances*

covered by the third party payor have been received.

H. J. The duration of temporary detention shall be sufficient to allow for completion of the examination required by § 37.2-815, preparation of the preadmission screening report required by § 37.2-816, and initiation of mental health treatment to stabilize the person's psychiatric condition to avoid involuntary commitment where possible, but shall not exceed 72 hours prior to a hearing. If the 72-hour period herein specified terminates on a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or day on which the court is lawfully closed, the person may be detained, as herein provided, until the close of business on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or day on which the court is lawfully closed. The person may be released, pursuant to § 37.2-813, before the 72-hour period herein specified has run.

I. K. If a temporary detention order is not executed within 24 hours of its issuance, or within a shorter period as is specified in the order, the order shall be void and shall be returned unexecuted to the office of the clerk of the issuing court or, if the office is not open, to any magistrate serving the jurisdiction of the issuing court. Subsequent orders may be issued upon the original petition within 96 hours after the petition is filed. However, a magistrate must again obtain the advice of an employee or a designee of the local community services board prior to issuing a subsequent order upon the original petition. Any petition for which no temporary detention order or other process in connection therewith is served on the subject of the petition within 96 hours after the petition is filed shall be void and shall be returned to the office of the clerk of the issuing court.

J. L. The Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia shall establish and require that a magistrate, as provided by this section, be available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, for the purpose of performing the duties established by this section. Each community services board shall provide to each general district court and magistrate's office within its service area a list of its employees and designees who are available to perform the evaluations required herein.

K. M. For purposes of this section, a health care provider or designee of a local community services board or behavioral health authority shall not be required to encrypt any email containing information or medical records provided to a magistrate unless there is reason to believe that a third party will attempt to intercept the email.

L. N. If the employee or designee of the community services board who is conducting the evaluation pursuant to this section recommends that the person should not be subject to a temporary detention order, such employee or designee shall (i) inform the petitioner, the person who initiated emergency custody if such person is present, and an onsite treating physician of his recommendation; (ii) promptly inform such person who initiated emergency custody that the community services board will facilitate communication between the person and the magistrate if the person disagrees with recommendations of the employee or designee of the community services board who conducted the evaluation and the person who initiated emergency custody so requests; and (iii) upon prompt request made by the person who initiated emergency custody, arrange for such person who initiated emergency custody to communicate with the magistrate as soon as is practicable and prior to the expiration of the period of emergency custody. The magistrate shall consider any information provided by the person who initiated emergency custody and any recommendations of the treating or examining physician and the employee or designee of the community services board who conducted the evaluation and consider such information and recommendations in accordance with subsection B in making his determination to issue a temporary detention order. The individual person who is the subject of emergency custody shall remain in the custody of law enforcement or a designee of law enforcement and shall not be released from emergency custody until communication with the magistrate pursuant to this subsection has concluded and the magistrate has made a determination regarding issuance of a temporary detention order.

M. O. For purposes of this section, "person who initiated emergency custody" means any person who initiated the issuance of an emergency custody order pursuant to § 37.2-808 or a law-enforcement officer who takes a person into custody pursuant to subsection G of § 37.2-808.

**§ 37.2-809.1. Facility of temporary detention.**

A. In each case in which an employee or designee of the local community services board as defined in § 37.2-809 is required to make an evaluation of an individual pursuant to subsection B, G, or H of § 37.2-808, an employee or designee of the local community services board shall, upon being notified of the need for such evaluation, contact the state facility for the area in which the community services board is located and notify the state facility that the individual will be transported to the facility upon issuance of a temporary detention order if no other facility of temporary detention can be identified by the time of the expiration of the period of emergency custody pursuant to § 37.2-808. Upon completion of the evaluation, the employee or designee of the local community services board shall convey to the state facility information about the individual necessary to allow the state facility to determine the services the individual will require upon admission.

B. A state facility may, following the notice in accordance with subsection A, conduct a search for an alternative facility that is able and willing to provide temporary detention and appropriate care to the

182 individual, which may include another state facility if the state facility notified in accordance with  
183 subsection A is unable to provide temporary detention and appropriate care for the individual. Under no  
184 circumstances shall a state facility fail or refuse to admit an individual who meets the criteria for  
185 temporary detention pursuant to § 37.2-809 unless an alternative facility that is able to provide  
186 temporary detention and appropriate care agrees to accept the individual for temporary detention and the  
187 individual shall not during the duration of the temporary detention order be released from custody  
188 except for purposes of transporting the individual to the state facility or alternative facility in accordance  
189 with the provisions of § 37.2-810. If an alternative facility is identified and agrees to accept the  
190 individual for temporary detention, the state facility shall notify the community services board, and an  
191 employee or designee of the community services board shall designate the alternative facility on the  
192 prescreening report.

193 *C. A state facility may conduct a search for an alternative facility that is able and willing to provide*  
194 *temporary detention and appropriate care to the individual in accordance with subsection B if the*  
195 *individual is in the custody of an employee or designee of the state facility pursuant to subsection F of*  
196 *§ 37.2-809.*

197 *D. The facility of temporary detention designated in accordance with this section shall be one that*  
198 *has been approved pursuant to regulations of the Board.*