

## VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

*An Act to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-278.7, 16.1-278.8 and 16.1-285 of the Code of Virginia, relating to commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice; transfer of juveniles convicted as adults to Department of Corrections.*

[S 344]

Approved

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

**1. That §§ 16.1-278.7, 16.1-278.8 and 16.1-285 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 16.1-278.7. Commitment to Department of Juvenile Justice.

Unless a child found to be abused, neglected, in need of services, in need of supervision or a status offender is also found to be delinquent and is older than ten years of age, he shall not *Only a juvenile who is adjudicated as a delinquent and is eleven years of age or older may be committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice. No juvenile court or circuit court shall order the commitment of any child jointly to the Department of Juvenile Justice and to a local board of public welfare or social services or transfer the custody of a child jointly to a court service unit of a juvenile court and to a local board of public welfare or social services. Any person sentenced and committed to an active term of incarceration in the Department of Corrections who is, at the time of such sentencing, in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice, upon pronouncement of sentence, shall be immediately transferred to the Department of Corrections.*

§ 16.1-278.8. Delinquent juveniles.

A. If a juvenile is found to be delinquent, except where such finding involves a refusal to take a blood or breath test in violation of § 18.2-268.2 or a similar ordinance, the juvenile court or the circuit court may make any of the following orders of disposition for his supervision, care and rehabilitation:

1. Enter an order pursuant to the provisions of § 16.1-278;

2. Permit the juvenile to remain with his parent, subject to such conditions and limitations as the court may order with respect to the juvenile and his parent;

3. Order the parent of a juvenile living with him to participate in such programs, cooperate in such treatment or be subject to such conditions and limitations as the court may order and as are designed for the rehabilitation of the juvenile and his parent;

4. Defer disposition for a period of time not to exceed twelve months, after which time the charge may be dismissed by the judge if the juvenile exhibits good behavior during the period for which disposition is deferred;

4a. Defer disposition and place the juvenile in the temporary custody of the Department to attend a boot camp established pursuant to § 66-13 provided bed space is available for confinement and the juvenile (i) is otherwise eligible for commitment to the Department, (ii) has not previously been and is not currently being adjudicated delinquent or found guilty of a violent juvenile felony, (iii) has not previously attended a boot camp, (iv) has not previously been committed to and received by the Department and (v) has had an assessment completed by the Department or its contractor concerning the appropriateness of the candidate for a boot camp. Upon the juvenile's withdrawal, removal or refusal to comply with the terms and conditions of participation in the program, he shall be brought before the court for a hearing at which the court may impose any other disposition as authorized by this section which could have been imposed at the time the juvenile was placed in the custody of the Department;

5. Without entering a judgment of guilty and with the consent of the juvenile and his attorney, defer disposition of the delinquency charge for a period not to exceed twelve months and place the juvenile on probation under such conditions and limitations as the court may prescribe. Upon fulfillment of the terms and conditions, the court shall discharge the juvenile and dismiss the proceedings against him. Discharge and dismissal under these provisions shall be without adjudication of guilt;

6. Order the parent of a juvenile with whom the juvenile does not reside to participate in such programs, cooperate in such treatment or be subject to such conditions and limitations as the court may order and as are designed for the rehabilitation of the juvenile where the court determines this participation to be in the best interest of the juvenile and other parties concerned and where the court determines it reasonable to expect the parent to be able to comply with such order;

7. Place the juvenile on probation under such conditions and limitations as the court may prescribe;

8. Impose a fine not to exceed \$500 upon such juvenile;

9. Suspend the motor vehicle and driver's license of such juvenile or impose a curfew on the juvenile

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as to the hours during which he may operate a motor vehicle. Any juvenile whose driver's license is suspended may be referred for an assessment and subsequent referral to appropriate services, upon such terms and conditions as the court may order. The court, in its discretion and upon a demonstration of hardship, may authorize the use of a restricted permit to operate a motor vehicle by any juvenile who enters such program for any of the purposes set forth in subsection E of § 18.2-271.1 or for travel to and from school. The restricted permit shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of such subsection. However, only an abstract of the court order which identifies the juvenile and the conditions under which the restricted license is to be issued shall be sent to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

If a curfew is imposed, the juvenile shall surrender his driver's license, which shall be held in the physical custody of the court during any period of curfew restriction. The court shall send an abstract of any order issued under the provisions of this section to the Department of Motor Vehicles, which shall preserve a record thereof. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 12 (§ 16.1-299 et seq.) of this chapter or the provisions of Title 46.2, this record shall be available only to all law-enforcement officers, attorneys for the Commonwealth and courts. A copy of the court order, upon which shall be noted all curfew restrictions, shall be provided to the juvenile and shall contain such information regarding the juvenile as is reasonably necessary to identify him. The juvenile may operate a motor vehicle under the court order in accordance with its terms.

Any juvenile who operates a motor vehicle in violation of any restrictions imposed pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a violation of § 46.2-301.

The Department of Motor Vehicles shall refuse to issue a driver's license to any juvenile denied a driver's license until such time as is stipulated in the court order or until notification by the court of withdrawal of the order imposing the curfew;

10. Require the juvenile to make restitution or reparation to the aggrieved party or parties for actual damages or loss caused by the offense for which the juvenile was found to be delinquent;

11. Require the juvenile to participate in a public service project under such conditions as the court prescribes;

12. In case of traffic violations, impose only those penalties which are authorized to be imposed on adults for such violations. However, for those violations punishable by confinement if committed by an adult, confinement shall be imposed only as authorized by this title;

13. Transfer legal custody to any of the following:

a. A relative or other individual who, after study, is found by the court to be qualified to receive and care for the juvenile;

b. A child welfare agency, private organization or facility which is licensed or otherwise authorized by law to receive and provide care for such juvenile. The court shall not transfer legal custody of a delinquent juvenile to an agency, organization or facility outside of the Commonwealth without the approval of the Director; or

c. The local board of social services of the county or city in which the court has jurisdiction or, at the discretion of the court, to the local board of the county or city in which the juvenile has residence if other than the county or city in which the court has jurisdiction. The board shall accept the juvenile for care and custody, provided that it has been given reasonable notice of the pendency of the case and an opportunity to be heard. However, in an emergency in the county or city in which the court has jurisdiction, such local board may be required to temporarily accept a juvenile for a period not to exceed fourteen days without prior notice or an opportunity to be heard if the judge entering the placement order describes the emergency and the need for such temporary placement in the order. Nothing in this subdivision shall prohibit the commitment of a juvenile to any local board of social services in the Commonwealth when such local board consents to the commitment. The board to which the juvenile is committed shall have the final authority to determine the appropriate placement for the juvenile. Any order authorizing removal from the home and transferring legal custody of a juvenile to a local board of social services as provided in this subdivision shall be entered only upon a finding by the court that reasonable efforts have been made to prevent removal and that continued placement in the home would be contrary to the welfare of the juvenile, and the order shall so state;

14. Commit the juvenile to the Department of Juvenile Justice, but only if he is ~~older than ten~~ *eleven* years of age *or older* and the current offense is (i) an offense which would be a felony if committed by an adult ~~or~~, (ii) an offense which would be a Class 1 misdemeanor if committed by an adult and the juvenile has previously been found to be delinquent based on an offense which would be ~~either~~ a felony ~~or Class 1 misdemeanor~~ if committed by an adult, *or (iii) an offense which would be a Class 1 misdemeanor if committed by an adult and the juvenile has previously been adjudicated delinquent on three occasions for offenses which would be Class 1 misdemeanors if committed by an adult;*

15. Impose the penalty authorized by § 16.1-284;

16. Impose the penalty authorized by § 16.1-284.1;

17. Impose the penalty authorized by § 16.1-285.1;

118 18. Impose the penalty authorized by § 16.1-278.9; or

119 19. Require the juvenile to participate in a gang-activity prevention program including, but not  
 120 limited to, programs funded under the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act pursuant to  
 121 § 16.1-309.7, if available, when a juvenile has been found delinquent of any of the following violations:  
 122 §§ 18.2-51, 18.2-51.1, 18.2-52, 18.2-53, 18.2-55, 18.2-56, 18.2-57, ~~18.2-57.1~~, 18.2-57.2, 18.2-121,  
 123 18.2-127, 18.2-128, 18.2-137, 18.2-138, 18.2-146, or § 18.2-147, or any violation of a local ordinance  
 124 adopted pursuant to § 18.2-138.1.

125 B. If the court finds a juvenile delinquent of any of the following offenses, the court shall require the  
 126 juvenile to make at least partial restitution or reparation for any property damage, for loss caused by the  
 127 offense, or for actual medical expenses incurred by the victim as a result of the offense: §§ 18.2-51,  
 128 18.2-51.1, 18.2-52, 18.2-53, 18.2-55, 18.2-56, 18.2-57, ~~18.2-57.1~~, 18.2-57.2, 18.2-121, 18.2-127,  
 129 18.2-128, 18.2-137, 18.2-138, 18.2-146, or § 18.2-147; or for any violation of a local ordinance adopted  
 130 pursuant to § 18.2-138.1. The court shall further require the juvenile to participate in a community  
 131 service project under such conditions as the court prescribes.

132 § 16.1-285. Duration of commitments.

133 Except as provided in § 16.1-285.1, all commitments under this chapter shall be for an indeterminate  
 134 period having regard to the welfare of the juvenile and interests of the public, but no juvenile committed  
 135 hereunder shall be held or detained longer than thirty-six continuous months or after such juvenile has  
 136 attained the age of twenty-one years. However, the thirty-six month limitation shall not apply in cases of  
 137 commitment for an act of murder or manslaughter. ~~Any juvenile who is committed under this law as an~~  
 138 ~~abused or neglected child or a child in need of services shall have the right upon request to be released~~  
 139 ~~from such commitment at the age of eighteen years.~~ The Department shall have the authority to  
 140 discharge any juvenile from its custody in accordance with policies and procedures established by the  
 141 State Board and with other provisions of law.

142 **2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment in state**  
 143 **correctional facilities. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation**  
 144 **is \$0 in FY 2010.**