

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

*An Act to amend and reenact § 8.01-225 of the Code of Virginia, relating to emergency care liability protection and compensation in the Good Samaritan context.*

[H 1294]

Approved

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

**1. That § 8.01-225 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 8.01-225. Persons rendering emergency care, obstetrical services exempt from liability.

A. Any person who:

1. In good faith, renders emergency care or assistance, without compensation, to any ill or injured person (i) at the scene of an accident, fire, or any life-threatening emergency; (ii) at a location for screening or stabilization of an emergency medical condition arising from an accident, fire, or any life-threatening emergency; or (iii) en route therefrom to any hospital, medical clinic or doctor's office, shall not be liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such care or assistance.

2. In the absence of gross negligence, renders emergency obstetrical care or assistance to a female in active labor who has not previously been cared for in connection with the pregnancy by such person or by another professionally associated with such person and whose medical records are not reasonably available to such person shall not be liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such emergency care or assistance. The immunity herein granted shall apply only to the emergency medical care provided.

3. In good faith and without compensation, including any emergency medical services technician certified by the Board of Health, administers epinephrine in an emergency to an individual shall not be liable for any civil damages for ordinary negligence in acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such treatment if such person has reason to believe that the individual receiving the injection is suffering or is about to suffer a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction.

4. Provides assistance upon request of any police agency, fire department, rescue or emergency squad, or any governmental agency in the event of an accident or other emergency involving the use, handling, transportation, transmission or storage of liquefied petroleum gas, liquefied natural gas, hazardous material or hazardous waste as defined in § 10.1-1400 or regulations of the Virginia Waste Management Board shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act of commission or omission on his part in the course of his rendering such assistance in good faith.

5. Is an emergency medical care attendant or technician possessing a valid certificate issued by authority of the State Board of Health who in good faith renders emergency care or assistance whether in person or by telephone or other means of communication, without compensation, to any injured or ill person, whether at the scene of an accident, fire or any other place, or while transporting such injured or ill person to, from or between any hospital, medical facility, medical clinic, doctor's office or other similar or related medical facility, shall not be liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such emergency care, treatment or assistance, including but in no way limited to acts or omissions which involve violations of State Department of Health regulations or any other state regulations in the rendering of such emergency care or assistance.

6. In good faith and without compensation, renders or administers emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation, cardiac defibrillation, including, but not limited to, the use of an automated external defibrillator, or other emergency life-sustaining or resuscitative treatments or procedures which have been approved by the State Board of Health to any sick or injured person, whether at the scene of a fire, an accident or any other place, or while transporting such person to or from any hospital, clinic, doctor's office or other medical facility, shall be deemed qualified to administer such emergency treatments and procedures and shall not be liable for acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such emergency resuscitative treatments or procedures.

7. Operates an automated external defibrillator at the scene of an emergency, trains individuals to be operators of automated external defibrillators, or orders automated external defibrillators, shall be immune from civil liability for any personal injury that results from any act or omission in the use of an automated external defibrillator in an emergency where the person performing the defibrillation acts as an ordinary, reasonably prudent person would have acted under the same or similar circumstances, unless such personal injury results from gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct of the person rendering such emergency care.

57 8. Is a volunteer in good standing and certified to render emergency care by the National Ski Patrol  
58 System, Inc., who, in good faith and without compensation, renders emergency care or assistance to any  
59 injured or ill person, whether at the scene of a ski resort rescue, outdoor emergency rescue or any other  
60 place or while transporting such injured or ill person to a place accessible for transfer to any available  
61 emergency medical system unit, or any resort owner voluntarily providing a ski patroller employed by  
62 him to engage in rescue or recovery work at a resort not owned or operated by him, shall not be liable  
63 for any civil damages for acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such emergency care,  
64 treatment or assistance, including but not limited to acts or omissions which involve violations of any  
65 state regulation or any standard of the National Ski Patrol System, Inc., in the rendering of such  
66 emergency care or assistance, unless such act or omission was the result of gross negligence or willful  
67 misconduct.

68 9. Is an employee of a school board, authorized by a prescriber and trained in the administration of  
69 insulin and glucagon, who, upon the written request of the parents as defined in § 22.1-1, assists with  
70 the administration of insulin or administers glucagon to a student diagnosed as having diabetes who  
71 requires insulin injections during the school day or for whom glucagon has been prescribed for the  
72 emergency treatment of hypoglycemia shall not be liable for any civil damages for ordinary negligence  
73 in acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such treatment if the insulin is administered  
74 according to the child's medication schedule or such employee has reason to believe that the individual  
75 receiving the glucagon is suffering or is about to suffer life-threatening hypoglycemia. Whenever any  
76 employee of a school board is covered by the immunity granted herein, the school board employing him  
77 shall not be liable for any civil damages for ordinary negligence in acts or omissions resulting from the  
78 rendering of such insulin or glucagon treatment.

79 B. Any licensed physician serving without compensation as the operational medical director for a  
80 licensed emergency medical services agency in this Commonwealth shall not be liable for any civil  
81 damages for any act or omission resulting from the rendering of emergency medical services in good  
82 faith by the personnel of such licensed agency unless such act or omission was the result of such  
83 physician's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

84 Any person serving without compensation as a dispatcher for any licensed public or nonprofit  
85 emergency services agency in this Commonwealth shall not be liable for any civil damages for any act  
86 or omission resulting from the rendering of emergency services in good faith by the personnel of such  
87 licensed agency unless such act or omission was the result of such dispatcher's gross negligence or  
88 willful misconduct.

89 Any individual, certified by the State Office of Emergency Medical Services as an emergency  
90 medical services instructor and pursuant to a written agreement with such office, who, in good faith and  
91 in the performance of his duties, provides instruction to persons for certification or recertification as a  
92 certified basic life support or advanced life support emergency medical services technician shall not be  
93 liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions on his part directly relating to his activities on behalf  
94 of such office unless such act or omission was the result of such emergency medical services instructor's  
95 gross negligence or willful misconduct.

96 Any licensed physician serving without compensation as a medical advisor to an E-911 system in  
97 this Commonwealth shall not be liable for any civil damages for any act or omission resulting from  
98 rendering medical advice in good faith to establish protocols to be used by the personnel of the E-911  
99 service, as defined in § 58.1-1730, when answering emergency calls unless such act or omission was the  
100 result of such physician's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

101 Any licensed physician who directs the provision of emergency medical services, as authorized by  
102 the State Board of Health, through a communications device shall not be liable for any civil damages  
103 for any act or omission resulting from the rendering of such emergency medical services unless such act  
104 or omission was the result of such physician's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

105 Any licensed physician serving without compensation as a supervisor of an automated external  
106 defibrillator in this Commonwealth shall not be liable for any civil damages for any act or omission  
107 resulting from rendering medical advice in good faith to the owner of the automated external  
108 defibrillator relating to personnel training, local emergency medical services coordination, protocol  
109 approval, automated external defibrillator deployment strategies, and equipment maintenance plans and  
110 records unless such act or omission was the result of such physician's gross negligence or willful  
111 misconduct.

112 C. Any communications services provider, as defined in § 58.1-647, including mobile service, and  
113 any provider of Voice-over-Internet Protocol service, in this Commonwealth shall not be liable for any  
114 civil damages for any act or omission resulting from rendering such service with or without charge  
115 related to emergency calls unless such act or omission was the result of such service provider's gross  
116 negligence or willful misconduct.

117 Any volunteer engaging in rescue or recovery work at a mine or any mine operator voluntarily

118 providing personnel to engage in rescue or recovery work at a mine not owned or operated by such  
 119 operator, shall not be liable for civil damages for acts or omissions resulting from the rendering of such  
 120 rescue or recovery work in good faith unless such act or omission was the result of gross negligence or  
 121 willful misconduct. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Voice-over-Internet Protocol service" or  
 122 "VoIP service" means any Internet protocol-enabled services utilizing a broadband connection, actually  
 123 originating or terminating in Internet Protocol from either or both ends of a channel of communication  
 124 offering real time, multidirectional voice functionality, including, but not limited to, services similar to  
 125 traditional telephone service.

126 D. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to provide immunity from liability arising out  
 127 of the operation of a motor vehicle.

128 E. (Expires July 1, 2008) 1. In the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct, a health care  
 129 provider shall not be liable in any civil action resulting from (i) injuries to any health care worker  
 130 sustained in connection with administration of the vaccinia (smallpox) vaccine or other smallpox  
 131 countermeasure, or (ii) any injuries to any other person sustained as a result of such other person  
 132 coming into contact, directly or indirectly, with a health care worker; provided the vaccinia (smallpox)  
 133 vaccine or smallpox countermeasure was administered and monitored in accordance with the  
 134 recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in effect at the time of the vaccinia  
 135 (smallpox) vaccine or other smallpox countermeasure administration. Nothing in this subsection shall  
 136 preclude an injured health care worker, who is otherwise eligible for workers' compensation benefits  
 137 pursuant to Title 65.2, from receipt of such benefits.

138 2. In the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct, a health care worker shall not be liable  
 139 in any civil action for injuries to any other person sustained as a result of such other person coming into  
 140 contact, directly or indirectly, with a health care worker, provided the vaccinia (smallpox) vaccine or  
 141 smallpox countermeasure was administered and monitored in accordance with the recommendations of  
 142 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in effect at the time of the vaccinia (smallpox) vaccine  
 143 or other smallpox countermeasure administration.

144 3. For the purposes of this subsection, "health care provider" means a health care provider  
 145 participating in a smallpox preparedness program, pursuant to a declaration by the United States  
 146 Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through which individuals associated with the health  
 147 care provider have received the vaccinia (smallpox) vaccine or other smallpox countermeasure defined  
 148 by HHS from any hospital, clinic, state or local health department, or any other entity that is identified  
 149 by state or local government entities or the HHS to participate in a vaccination program.

150 4. For the purposes of this subsection, "health care worker" means a health care worker to whom the  
 151 vaccinia (smallpox) vaccine or other smallpox countermeasure has been administered as part of a  
 152 smallpox preparedness program pursuant to a declaration by HHS. Such health care workers shall  
 153 include but shall not be limited to: (i) employees of a health care provider referenced in subdivision 3,  
 154 (ii) independent contractors with a health care provider referenced in subdivision 3, (iii) persons who  
 155 have practice privileges in a hospital, (iv) persons who have agreed to be on call in an emergency room,  
 156 (v) persons who otherwise regularly deliver prehospital care to patients admitted to a hospital, and (vi)  
 157 first responders who, for the purposes of this section, are defined as any law-enforcement officer,  
 158 firefighter, emergency medical personnel, or other public safety personnel functioning in a role identified  
 159 by a federal, state, or local emergency response plan.

160 F. For the purposes of this section, the term "compensation" shall not be construed to include (i) the  
 161 salaries of police, fire or other public officials or personnel who render such emergency assistance, (ii)  
 162 the salaries or wages of employees of a coal producer engaging in emergency medical technician service  
 163 or first aid service pursuant to the provisions of § 45.1-161.38, 45.1-161.101, 45.1-161.199 or  
 164 45.1-161.263, (iii) complimentary lift tickets, food, lodging or other gifts provided as a gratuity to  
 165 volunteer members of the National Ski Patrol System, Inc., by any resort, group or agency, or (iv) the  
 166 salary of any person who (a) owns an automated external defibrillator for the use at the scene of an  
 167 emergency, (b) trains individuals, in courses approved by the Board of Health, to operate automated  
 168 external defibrillators at the scene of emergencies, (c) orders automated external defibrillators for use at  
 169 the scene of emergencies, or (d) operates an automated external defibrillator at the scene of an  
 170 emergency, or (v) *expenses reimbursed to any person providing care or assistance pursuant to this*  
 171 *section.*

172 For the purposes of this section, an emergency medical care attendant or technician shall be deemed  
 173 to include a person licensed or certified as such or its equivalent by any other state when he is  
 174 performing services which he is licensed or certified to perform by such other state in caring for a  
 175 patient in transit in this Commonwealth, which care originated in such other state.

176 Further, the public shall be urged to receive training on how to use cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
 177 (CPR) and an automated external defibrillator (AED) in order to acquire the skills and confidence to  
 178 respond to emergencies using both CPR and an AED.