

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2009 SESSION

## CHAPTER 640

*An Act to amend and reenact § 19.2-188 of the Code of Virginia, relating to admissibility of contents of reports by medical examiner.*

[H 1850]

Approved March 30, 2009

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

**1. That § 19.2-188 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 19.2-188. Reports by Chief Medical Examiner received as evidence.

A. Reports of investigations made by the Chief Medical Examiner, his assistants or medical examiners, and the records and certified reports of autopsies made under the authority of Title 32.1, shall be received as evidence in any court or other proceeding, and copies of photographs, laboratory findings and reports in the office of the Chief Medical Examiner or any medical examiner, when duly attested by the Chief Medical Examiner or one of his Assistant Chief Medical Examiners, shall be received as evidence in any court or other proceeding for any purpose for which the original could be received without proof of the official character or the person whose name is signed thereto.

B. *Any statement of fact or of opinion in such reports and records concerning the physical or medical cause of death and not alleging any conduct by the accused shall be admissible as competent evidence of the cause of death in any preliminary hearing.*