

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 19.2-76.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to destruction of unexecuted*
3 *felony and misdemeanor warrants.*

4 [H 1695]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 19.2-76.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 19.2-76.1. Submission of quarterly reports concerning unexecuted felony and misdemeanor warrants
9 and other criminal process; destruction; dismissal.

10 It shall be the duty of the chief law-enforcement officer of the police department or sheriff's office,
11 whichever is responsible for such service, in each county, town or city of the Commonwealth to submit
12 quarterly reports to the attorney for the Commonwealth for the county, town or city concerning
13 unexecuted felony and misdemeanor arrest warrants, summonses, capias or other unexecuted criminal
14 processes as hereinafter provided. The reports shall list those existing felony arrest warrants in his
15 possession that have not been executed within seven years of the date of issuance, those misdemeanor
16 arrest warrants, summonses and capias and other criminal processes in his possession that have not
17 been executed within three years from the date of issuance, and those unexecuted misdemeanor arrest
18 warrants, summonses and capias in his possession that were issued for a now deceased person, based
19 on mistaken identity or as a result of any other technical or legal error. The reports shall be submitted in
20 writing no later than the tenth day of April, July, October, and January of each year, together with the
21 unexecuted felony and misdemeanor warrants, or other unexecuted criminal processes listed therein.
22 Upon receipt of the report and the warrants listed therein, the attorney for the Commonwealth shall
23 petition the circuit court of the county or city for the destruction of such unexecuted felony and
24 misdemeanor warrants, summonses, capias or other unexecuted criminal processes. The attorney for
25 the Commonwealth may petition that certain of the unexecuted warrants, summonses, capias and other
26 unexecuted criminal processes not be destroyed based upon justifiable continuing, active investigation of
27 the cases. The circuit court shall order the destruction of each such unexecuted felony warrant and each
28 unexecuted misdemeanor warrant, summons, capias and other criminal process except (i) any warrant
29 which charges capital murder and (ii) any unexecuted criminal process whose preservation is deemed
30 justifiable by the court. No arrest shall be made under the authority of any warrant or other process
31 which has been ordered destroyed pursuant to this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to
32 relate to or affect the time within which a prosecution for a felony or a misdemeanor shall be
33 commenced.

34 Notwithstanding the foregoing, an attorney for the Commonwealth may at any time move for the
35 dismissal *and destruction* of any unexecuted warrant or summons issued by a magistrate upon
36 presentation of such warrant or summons to the court in which the warrant or summons would otherwise
37 be returnable. *The court shall not order the dismissal and destruction of any warrant which charges*
38 *capital murder and shall not order the dismissal and destruction of an unexecuted criminal process*
39 *whose preservation is deemed justifiable by the court.* Dismissal of such a warrant or summons shall be
40 without prejudice.

41 As used herein, the term "chief law-enforcement officer" refers to the chiefs of police of cities,
42 counties and towns and sheriffs of cities and counties, unless a political subdivision has otherwise
43 designated its chief law-enforcement officer by appropriate resolution or ordinance, in which case the
44 local designation shall be controlling.

ENROLLED

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