

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 19.2-188.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to testimony regarding*  
3 *field-test identification of controlled substances.*

4 [H 1376]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 19.2-188.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 19.2-188.1. Testimony regarding identification of controlled substances.**

9 A. In any preliminary hearing on a violation of Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title  
10 18.2 or a violation of subdivision 6 of § 53.1-203, any law-enforcement officer shall be permitted to  
11 testify as to the results of field tests ~~which~~ that have been approved by the Department of Forensic  
12 Science pursuant to regulations adopted in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000  
13 et seq.), regarding whether or not any substance the identity of which is at issue in such hearing is a  
14 controlled substance, imitation controlled substance, or marijuana, as defined in § 18.2-247.

15 B. In any trial for a violation of § 18.2-250.1, any law-enforcement officer shall be permitted to  
16 testify as to the results of any marijuana field test approved as accurate and reliable by the Department  
17 of Forensic Science pursuant to regulations adopted in accordance with the Administrative Process Act  
18 (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), regarding whether or not any plant material, the identity of which is at issue, is  
19 marijuana provided the defendant has been given written notice of his right to request a full chemical  
20 analysis. Such notice shall be on a form approved by the Supreme Court and shall be provided to the  
21 defendant prior to trial.

22 In any case in which the person accused of a violation of § 18.2-250.1, or the attorney of record for  
23 the accused, desires a full chemical analysis of the alleged plant material, he may, by motion prior to  
24 trial before the court in which the charge is pending, request such a chemical analysis. Upon such  
25 motion, the court shall order that the analysis be performed by the Department of Forensic Science and  
26 shall prescribe in its order the method of custody, transfer, and return of evidence submitted for  
27 chemical analysis.

ENROLLED

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