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HOUSE BILL NO. 17

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice
on February 24, 2014)

(Patrons Prior to Substitute—Delegates Marshall, R.G. and Carr [HB 817])

A BILL to amend and reenact § 19.2-70.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to warrant requirement for certain telecommunications records; real-time location data.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 19.2-70.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 19.2-70.3. Obtaining records concerning electronic communication service or remote computing service.

A. A provider of electronic communication service or remote computing service, which, for purposes of subdivisions A 2 through A 4, includes a foreign corporation that provides such services, shall disclose a record or other information pertaining to a subscriber to or customer of such service, excluding the contents of electronic communications *and real-time location data*, to an investigative or law-enforcement officer only pursuant to:

1. A subpoena issued by a grand jury of a court of ~~this~~ the Commonwealth;
2. A search warrant issued by a magistrate, general district court, or a circuit court;
3. A court order for such disclosure issued as provided in ~~this section~~ subsection B; or
4. The consent of the subscriber or customer to such disclosure.

B. A court shall issue an order for disclosure under this section only if the investigative or law-enforcement officer shows that there is reason to believe the records or other information sought are relevant and material to an ongoing criminal investigation, or the investigation of any missing child as defined in § 52-32, missing senior adult as defined in § 52-34.4, or an incapacitated person as defined in § 64.2-2000 who meets the definition of a missing senior adult except for the age requirement. Upon issuance of an order for disclosure under this section, the order and any written application or statement of facts may be sealed by the court for 90 days for good cause shown upon application of the attorney for the Commonwealth in an ex parte proceeding. The order and any written application or statement of facts may be sealed for additional 90-day periods for good cause shown upon subsequent application of the attorney for the Commonwealth in an ex parte proceeding. A court issuing an order pursuant to this section, on a motion made promptly by the service provider, may quash or modify the order, if the information or records requested are unusually voluminous in nature or compliance with such order would otherwise cause an undue burden on such provider.

C. *Except as provided in subsection D*, a provider of electronic communication service or remote computing service, including a foreign corporation that provides such services, shall disclose the contents of electronic communications *or real-time location data* to an investigative or law-enforcement officer only pursuant to a search warrant issued by a magistrate, a juvenile and domestic relations district court, a general district court, or a circuit court, based upon complaint on oath supported by an affidavit as required in § 19.2-54, or judicial officer or court of any of the several states of the United States or its territories, or the District of Columbia when the warrant issued by such officer or such court complies with the provisions of subsection E G. In the case of a search warrant directed to a foreign corporation, the affidavit shall state that the complainant believes that the records requested are actually or constructively possessed by a foreign corporation that provides electronic communication service or remote computing service within the Commonwealth of Virginia. If satisfied that probable cause has been established for such belief and as required by Chapter 5 (§ 19.2-52 et seq.), the magistrate, the juvenile and domestic relations district court, the general district court, or the circuit court shall issue a warrant identifying those records to be searched for and commanding the person seeking such warrant to properly serve the warrant upon the foreign corporation.

D. A provider of electronic communication service or remote computing service, including a foreign corporation that provides such services, shall disclose a record or other information pertaining to a subscriber to or customer of such service, including real-time location data but excluding the contents of electronic communications, to an investigative or law-enforcement officer pursuant to an administrative subpoena issued pursuant to § 19.2-10.2 concerning a violation of § 18.2-374.1 or 18.2-374.1:1, former § 18.2-374.1:2, or § 18.2-374.3 when the information sought is relevant and material to an ongoing criminal investigation.

E. When disclosure of real-time location data is not prohibited by federal law, an investigative or law-enforcement officer may obtain real-time location data without a warrant in the following circumstances:

1. To respond to the user's call for emergency services;

60 2. *With the informed, affirmative consent of the owner or user of the electronic device concerned if*
61 *(i) the device is in his possession; (ii) the owner or user knows or believes that the device is in the*
62 *possession of an employee or agent of the owner or user with the owner's or user's consent; or (iii) the*
63 *owner or user knows or believes that the device has been taken by a third party without the consent of*
64 *the owner or user.*

65 3. *With the informed, affirmative consent of the legal guardian or next of kin of the owner or user, if*
66 *reasonably available, if the owner or user is reasonably believed to be deceased, is reported missing, or*
67 *is unable to be contacted; or*

68 4. *If the investigative or law-enforcement officer reasonably believes that an emergency involving the*
69 *immediate danger to a person requires the disclosure, without delay, of real-time location data*
70 *concerning a specific person and that a warrant cannot be obtained in time to prevent the identified*
71 *danger, and the possessor of the real-time location data believes, in good faith, that an emergency*
72 *involving danger to a person requires disclosure without delay.*

73 *No later than three business days after seeking disclosure of real-time location data pursuant to this*
74 *subsection, the investigative or law-enforcement officer seeking the information shall file with the*
75 *appropriate court a written statement setting forth the facts giving rise to the emergency and the facts*
76 *as to why the person whose real-time location data was sought is believed to be important in addressing*
77 *the emergency.*

78 F. In order to comply with the requirements of § 19.2-54, any search of the records of a foreign
79 corporation shall be deemed to have been made in the same place wherein the search warrant was
80 issued.

81 E. G. A Virginia corporation or other entity that provides electronic communication services or
82 remote computing services to the general public, when properly served with a search warrant and
83 affidavit in support of the warrant, issued by a judicial officer or court of any of the several states of the
84 United States or its territories, or the District of Columbia with jurisdiction over the matter, to produce a
85 record or other information pertaining to a subscriber to or customer of such service, *including real-time*
86 *location data*, or the contents of electronic communications, or both, shall produce the record or other
87 information, *including real-time location data*, or the contents of electronic communications as if that
88 warrant had been issued by a Virginia court. The provisions of this subsection shall only apply to a
89 record or other information, *including real-time location data*, or contents of electronic communications
90 relating to the commission of a criminal offense that is substantially similar to (i) a violent felony as
91 defined in § 17.1-805, (ii) an act of violence as defined in § 19.2-297.1, (iii) any offense for which
92 registration is required pursuant to § 9.1-902, (iv) computer fraud pursuant to § 18.2-152.3, or (v)
93 identity theft pursuant to § 18.2-186.3. The search warrant shall be enforced and executed in the
94 Commonwealth as if it were a search warrant described in subsection C.

95 F. H. The provider of electronic communication service or remote computing service may verify the
96 authenticity of the written reports or records that it discloses pursuant to this section, excluding the
97 contents of electronic communications, by providing an affidavit from the custodian of those written
98 reports or records or from a person to whom said custodian reports certifying that they are true and
99 complete and that they are prepared in the regular course of business. When so authenticated, the written
100 reports and records are admissible in evidence as a business records exception to the hearsay rule.

101 G. I. No cause of action shall lie in any court against a provider of a wire or electronic
102 communication service, ~~its~~ *or remote computing service or such provider's* officers, employees, agents,
103 or other specified persons for providing information, facilities, or assistance in accordance with the terms
104 of a court order, warrant, *administrative subpoena*, or subpoena under this section *or the provisions of*
105 *subsection E.*

106 H. J. A search warrant, court order, or administrative subpoena for the disclosure of real-time
107 location data pursuant to this section shall require the provider to provide ongoing disclosure of such
108 data for a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 30 days. A court may, for good cause shown, grant
109 one or more extensions, not to exceed 30 days each.

110 K. For the purposes of this section:

111 "Electronic device" means a device that enables access to, or use of, an electronic communication
112 service, remote computing service, or location information service, including a global positioning service
113 or other mapping, locational, or directional information service.

114 "Foreign corporation" means any corporation or other entity, whose primary place of business is
115 located outside of the boundaries of the Commonwealth, that makes a contract or engages in a terms of
116 service agreement with a resident of the Commonwealth to be performed in whole or in part by either
117 party in the Commonwealth, or a corporation that has been issued a certificate of authority pursuant to
118 § 13.1-759 to transact business in the Commonwealth. The making of the contract or terms of service
119 agreement or the issuance of a certificate of authority shall be considered to be the agreement of the
120 foreign corporation or entity that a search warrant or subpoena, which has been properly served on it,
121 has the same legal force and effect as if served personally within the Commonwealth.

122 "Properly served" means delivery of a search warrant or subpoena by hand, by United States mail, by
123 commercial delivery service, by facsimile or by any other manner to any officer of a corporation or its
124 general manager in the Commonwealth, to any natural person designated by it as agent for the service
125 of process, or if such corporation has designated a corporate agent, to any person named in the latest
126 annual report filed pursuant to § 13.1-775.

127 *"Real-time location data" means any data or information concerning the current location of an*
128 *electronic device that, in whole or in part, is generated, derived from, or obtained by the operation of*
129 *the device.*