

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2015 SESSION

CHAPTER 632

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-244 and 19.2-247 of the Code of Virginia, relating to venue in criminal cases.

[H 1927]

Approved March 26, 2015

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 19.2-244 and 19.2-247 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 19.2-244. Venue in general.

A. Except as otherwise provided by law, the prosecution of a criminal case shall be had in the county or city in which the offense was committed. Except as to motions for a change of venue, all other questions of venue must be raised before verdict in cases tried by a jury and before the finding of guilty in cases tried by the court without a jury.

B. If an offense has been committed within the Commonwealth and it cannot readily be determined within which county or city the offense was committed, venue for the prosecution of the offense may be had in the county or city (i) in which the defendant resides or (ii) if the defendant is not a resident of the Commonwealth, in which the defendant is apprehended.

§ 19.2-247. Venue in certain homicide cases.

Where evidence exists that a homicide has been committed either within or without ~~this~~ the Commonwealth, under circumstances ~~which~~ that make it unknown where such crime was committed, the ~~offense homicide and any related offenses~~ shall be amenable to prosecution in the courts of the county or city where the body *or any part thereof* of the victim may be found or, if the victim was removed from the Commonwealth for medical treatment prior to death and died outside the Commonwealth, in the courts of the county or city from which the victim was removed for medical treatment prior to death, as if the offense has been committed in such county or city. In a prosecution for capital murder pursuant to subdivision 8 of § 18.2-31, the offense may be prosecuted in any jurisdiction in the Commonwealth in which any one of the killings may be prosecuted.