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HOUSE BILL NO. 2027

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 14, 2015

A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-287.01 of the Code of Virginia, relating to prohibition on weapons at airports; exception for handguns.

Patrons—Wilt, Lingamfelter, Ingram, Landes and Taylor

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 18.2-287.01 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 18.2-287.01. Carrying weapon in air carrier airport terminal.**

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or transport into any air carrier airport terminal in the Commonwealth any (i) gun or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind; (ii) frame, receiver, muffler, silencer, missile, projectile, or ammunition designed for use with a dangerous weapon; and (iii) any other dangerous weapon, including explosives, stun weapons as defined in § 18.2-308.1, and those weapons specified in subsection A of § 18.2-308. ~~Any such weapon shall be subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer.~~ A violation of this section is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor. Any weapon possessed or transported in violation of this section *shall be subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and* shall be forfeited to the Commonwealth and disposed of as provided in § 19.2-386.28.

B. *The provisions of this subsection A shall not apply to any person who lawfully possesses or transports a handgun in any portion of an air carrier airport terminal other than the secured area, as that term is defined in 49 C.F.R. § 1540.5, of the airport terminal. The authority, commission, or other entity that operates any airport terminal containing a secured area shall post at least one notice in a conspicuous location at each entrance to a secured area that is accessible by the public that states (i) "Secured Area" in at least two-inch type and (ii) the items restricted from being possessed or transported in the secured area under the provisions of this section in at least 24-point type.*

C. The provisions of this ~~section~~ subsection A shall not apply to any police officer, sheriff, law-enforcement agent or official, or conservation police officer, or conservator of the peace employed by the air carrier airport, nor shall the provisions of this section apply to any passenger of an airline who, to the extent otherwise permitted by law, transports a lawful firearm, weapon, or ammunition into or out of an air carrier airport terminal for the sole purposes, respectively, of (i) presenting such firearm, weapon, or ammunition to U.S. Customs agents in advance of an international flight, in order to comply with federal law, (ii) checking such firearm, weapon, or ammunition with his luggage, or (iii) retrieving such firearm, weapon, or ammunition from the baggage claim area.

D. Any other statute, rule, regulation, or ordinance specifically addressing the possession or transportation of weapons in any airport in the Commonwealth shall be invalid, and this section shall control.

INTRODUCED

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