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SENATE BILL NO. 685

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled October 30, 2014

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-12, 19.2-56, 19.2-187, and 19.2-187.01 of the Code of Virginia, relating to criminal procedure; postal inspectors.

Patrons—Favola, McDougle, Edwards and Lucas

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 19.2-12, 19.2-56, 19.2-187, and 19.2-187.01 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 19.2-12. Who are conservators of the peace.

Every judge and attorney for the Commonwealth throughout the Commonwealth and every magistrate within the geographical area for which he is appointed or elected, shall be a conservator of the peace. In addition, every commissioner in chancery, while sitting as such commissioner; any special agent or law-enforcement officer of the United States Department of Justice, National Marine Fisheries Service of the United States Department of Commerce, Department of Treasury, Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, Department of State, Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Interior; any inspector, law-enforcement official or police personnel of the United States Postal Inspection Service; any United States marshal or deputy United States marshal whose duties involve the enforcement of the criminal laws of the United States; any officer of the Virginia Marine Police; any criminal investigator of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, who meets the minimum law-enforcement training requirements established by the Department of Criminal Justice Services for in-service training; any criminal investigator of the United States Department of Labor; any special agent of the United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service, any special agent of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and any sworn municipal park ranger, who has completed all requirements under § 15.2-1706, shall be a conservator of the peace, while engaged in the performance of their official duties.

§ 19.2-56. To whom search warrant directed; what it shall command; warrant to show date and time of issuance; copy of affidavit to be part of warrant and served therewith; warrants not executed within 15 days.

The judge, magistrate or other official authorized to issue criminal warrants, shall issue a search warrant if he finds from the facts or circumstances recited in the affidavit that there is probable cause for the issuance thereof.

Every search warrant shall be directed to (i) the sheriff, sergeant, or any policeman of the county, city or town in which the place to be searched is located, (ii) any law-enforcement officer or agent employed by the Commonwealth and vested with the powers of sheriffs and police, or (iii) jointly to any such sheriff, sergeant, policeman or law-enforcement officer or agent and an agent, special agent or officer of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms of the United States Treasury, the United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the United States Department of Homeland Security, any inspector, law-enforcement official or police personnel of the United States Postal Inspection Service, or the Drug Enforcement Administration. The warrant shall (i) name the affiant, (ii) recite the offense in relation to which the search is to be made, (iii) name or describe the place to be searched, (iv) describe the property or person to be searched for, and (v) recite that the magistrate has found probable cause to believe that the property or person constitutes evidence of a crime (identified in the warrant) or tends to show that a person (named or described therein) has committed or is committing a crime.

The warrant shall command that the place be forthwith searched, either in day or night, and that the objects or persons described in the warrant, if found there, be seized. An inventory shall be produced before a court having jurisdiction of the offense in relation to which the warrant was issued as provided in § 19.2-57.

Any such warrant as provided in this section shall be executed by the policeman or other law-enforcement officer or agent into whose hands it shall come or be delivered. If the warrant is directed jointly to a sheriff, sergeant, policeman or law-enforcement officer or agent of the Commonwealth and a federal agent or officer as otherwise provided in this section, the warrant may be executed jointly or by the policeman, law-enforcement officer or agent into whose hands it is delivered.

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59 No other person may be permitted to be present during or participate in the execution of a warrant to  
60 search a place except (i) the owners and occupants of the place to be searched when permitted to be  
61 present by the officer in charge of the conduct of the search and (ii) persons designated by the officer in  
62 charge of the conduct of the search to assist or provide expertise in the conduct of the search.

63 Any search warrant for records or other information pertaining to a subscriber to, or customer of, an  
64 electronic communication service or remote computing service, whether a domestic corporation or  
65 foreign corporation, that is transacting or has transacted any business in the Commonwealth, to be  
66 executed upon such service provider may be executed within or without the Commonwealth by hand,  
67 United States mail, commercial delivery service, facsimile, or other electronic means upon the service  
68 provider. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 19.2-57, the officer executing a warrant pursuant to this  
69 paragraph shall endorse the date of execution thereon and shall file the warrant, with the inventory  
70 attached (or a notation that no property was seized) and the accompanying affidavit, unless such  
71 affidavit was made by voice or videotape recording, within three days after the materials ordered to be  
72 produced are received by the officer from the service provider. The return shall be made in the circuit  
73 court clerk's office for the jurisdiction wherein the warrant was issued. Saturdays, Sundays, or any  
74 federal or state legal holiday shall not be used in computing the three-day filing period.

75 Electronic communication service or remote computing service providers, whether a foreign or  
76 domestic corporation, shall also provide the contents of electronic communications pursuant to a search  
77 warrant issued under this section and § 19.2-70.3 using the same process described in the preceding  
78 paragraph.

79 Every search warrant shall contain the date and time it was issued. However, the failure of any such  
80 search warrant to contain the date and time it was issued shall not render the warrant void, provided that  
81 the date and time of issuing of said warrant is established by competent evidence.

82 The judge, magistrate, or other official authorized to issue criminal warrants shall attach a copy of  
83 the affidavit required by § 19.2-54, which shall become a part of the search warrant and served  
84 therewith. However, this provision shall not be applicable in any case in which the affidavit is made by  
85 means of a voice or videotape recording or where the affidavit has been sealed pursuant to § 19.2-54.

86 Any search warrant not executed within 15 days after issuance thereof shall be returned to, and  
87 voided by, the officer who issued such search warrant.

88 For the purposes of this section:

89 "Foreign corporation" means any corporation or other entity, whose primary place of business is  
90 located outside of the boundaries of the Commonwealth, that makes a contract or engages in a terms of  
91 service agreement with a resident of the Commonwealth to be performed in whole or in part by either  
92 party in the Commonwealth, or a corporation that has been issued a certificate of authority pursuant to  
93 § 13.1-759 to transact business in the Commonwealth. The making of the contract or terms of service  
94 agreement or the issuance of a certificate of authority shall be considered to be the agreement of the  
95 foreign corporation or entity that a search warrant or subpoena, which has been properly served on it,  
96 has the same legal force and effect as if served personally within the Commonwealth.

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

102 **§ 19.2-187. Admission into evidence of certain certificates of analysis.**

103 In any hearing or trial of any criminal offense or in any proceeding brought pursuant to Chapter 22.1  
104 (§ 19.2-386.1 et seq.), a certificate of analysis of a person performing an analysis or examination, duly  
105 attested by such person, shall be admissible in evidence as evidence of the facts therein stated and the  
106 results of the analysis or examination referred to therein, provided (i) the certificate of analysis is filed  
107 with the clerk of the court hearing the case at least seven days prior to the proceeding if the attorney for  
108 the Commonwealth intends to offer it into evidence in a preliminary hearing or the accused intends to  
109 offer it into evidence in any hearing or trial, or (ii) the requirements of subsection A of § 19.2-187.1  
110 have been satisfied and the accused has not objected to the admission of the certificate pursuant to  
111 subsection B of § 19.2-187.1, when any such analysis or examination is performed in any laboratory  
112 operated by the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services or the Department of Forensic Science or  
113 authorized by such Department to conduct such analysis or examination, or performed by a person  
114 licensed by the Department of Forensic Science pursuant to § 18.2-268.9 or 46.2-341.26:9 to conduct  
115 such analysis or examination, or performed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the ~~federal~~ *United*  
116 *States Postal Inspection* Service, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Naval  
117 Criminal Investigative Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, the federal Drug  
118 Enforcement Administration, the Forensic Document Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Homeland  
119 Security, or the U.S. Secret Service Laboratory.

120 In a hearing or trial in which the provisions of subsection A of § 19.2-187.1 do not apply, a copy of

121 such certificate shall be mailed or delivered by the clerk or attorney for the Commonwealth to counsel  
 122 of record for the accused at no charge at least seven days prior to the hearing or trial upon request made  
 123 by such counsel to the clerk with notice of the request to the attorney for the Commonwealth. The  
 124 request to the clerk shall be on a form prescribed by the Supreme Court and filed with the clerk at least  
 125 10 days prior to the hearing or trial. In the event that a request for a copy of a certificate is filed with  
 126 the clerk with respect to a case that is not yet before the court, the clerk shall advise the requester that  
 127 he must resubmit the request at such time as the case is properly before the court in order for such  
 128 request to be effective. If, upon proper request made by counsel of record for the accused, a copy of  
 129 such certificate is not mailed or delivered by the clerk or attorney for the Commonwealth to counsel of  
 130 record for the accused in a timely manner in accordance with this section, the accused shall be entitled  
 131 to continue the hearing or trial.

132 The certificate of analysis of any examination conducted by the Department of Forensic Science  
 133 relating to a controlled substance or marijuana shall be mailed or forwarded by personnel of the  
 134 Department of Forensic Science to the attorney for the Commonwealth of the jurisdiction where such  
 135 offense may be heard. The attorney for the Commonwealth shall acknowledge receipt of the certificate  
 136 on forms provided by the laboratory.

137 Any such certificate of analysis purporting to be signed, either by hand or by electronic means, by  
 138 any such person shall be admissible as evidence in such hearing or trial without any proof of the seal or  
 139 signature or of the official character of the person whose name is signed to it. The attestation signature  
 140 of a person performing the analysis or examination may be either hand or electronically signed.

141 For the purposes of this section and §§ 19.2-187.01, 19.2-187.1, and 19.2-187.2, the term "certificate  
 142 of analysis" includes reports of analysis and results of laboratory examination.

143 **§ 19.2-187.01. Certificate of analysis as evidence of chain of custody of material described**  
 144 **therein.**

145 A report of analysis duly attested by the person performing such analysis or examination in any  
 146 laboratory operated by (i) the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services, the Department of Forensic  
 147 Science or any of its regional laboratories, or by any laboratory authorized by such Division or  
 148 Department to conduct such analysis or examination; (ii) the Federal Bureau of Investigation; (iii) the  
 149 federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; (iv) the Naval Criminal Investigative Service; (v) the  
 150 federal Drug Enforcement Administration; (vi) the *United States* Postal ~~Inspection~~ Service; (vii) the U.S.  
 151 Secret Service; or (viii) the Forensic Document Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Homeland  
 152 Security shall be prima facie evidence in a criminal or civil proceeding as to the custody of the material  
 153 described therein from the time such material is received by an authorized agent of such laboratory until  
 154 such material is released subsequent to such analysis or examination. Any such certificate of analysis  
 155 purporting to be signed by any such person shall be admissible as evidence in such hearing or trial  
 156 without any proof of the seal or signature or of the official character of the person whose name is  
 157 signed to it. The signature of the person who received the material for the laboratory on the request for  
 158 laboratory examination form shall be deemed prima facie evidence that the person receiving the material  
 159 was an authorized agent and that such receipt constitutes proper receipt by the laboratory for purposes of  
 160 this section.