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## SENATE BILL NO. 567

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled January 13, 2016

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-337, 37.2-804.2, and 37.2-809 of the Code of Virginia, relating to temporary detention; notice of recommendation; communication with magistrate.*

Patron—Barker

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 16.1-337, 37.2-804.2, and 37.2-809 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 16.1-337. Inpatient treatment of minors; general applicability; disclosure of records.**

A. A minor may be admitted to a mental health facility for inpatient treatment only pursuant to § 16.1-338, 16.1-339, or 16.1-340.1 or in accordance with an order of involuntary commitment entered pursuant to §§ 16.1-341 through 16.1-345. The provisions of Article 12 (§ 16.1-299 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of this title relating to the confidentiality of files, papers, and records shall apply to proceedings under this article.

B. Any health care provider, as defined in § 32.1-127.1:03, or other provider rendering services to a minor who is the subject of proceedings under this article, upon request, shall disclose to a magistrate, the juvenile intake officer, the court, the minor's attorney, the minor's guardian ad litem, the qualified evaluator performing the evaluation required under §§ 16.1-338, 16.1-339, and 16.1-342, the community services board or its designee performing the evaluation, preadmission screening, or monitoring duties under this article, or a law-enforcement officer any and all information that is necessary and appropriate to enable each of them to perform his duties under this article. These health care providers and other service providers shall disclose to one another health records and information where necessary to provide care and treatment to the person and to monitor that care and treatment. Health records disclosed to a law-enforcement officer shall be limited to information necessary to protect the officer, the minor, or the public from physical injury or to address the health care needs of the minor. Information disclosed to a law-enforcement officer shall not be used for any other purpose, disclosed to others, or retained.

Any health care provider providing services to a minor who is the subject of proceedings under this article ~~may~~ shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the minor's parent of information which is directly relevant to such individual's involvement with the minor's health care, which may include the minor's location and general condition, in accordance with subdivision D 34 of § 32.1-127.1:03, unless the provider has actual knowledge that the parent is currently prohibited by court order from contacting the minor.

Any health care provider disclosing records pursuant to this section shall be immune from civil liability for any harm resulting from the disclosure, including any liability under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (42 U.S.C. § 1320d et seq.), as amended, unless the person or provider disclosing such records intended the harm or acted in bad faith.

C. Any order entered where a minor is the subject of proceedings under this article shall provide for the disclosure of health records pursuant to subsection B. This subsection shall not preclude any other disclosures as required or permitted by law.

**§ 37.2-804.2. Disclosure of records.**

Any health care provider, as defined in § 32.1-127.1:03, or other provider who has provided or is currently providing services to a person who is the subject of proceedings pursuant to this chapter shall, upon request, disclose to a magistrate, the court, the person's attorney, the person's guardian ad litem, the examiner identified to perform an examination pursuant to § 37.2-815, the community services board or its designee performing any evaluation, preadmission screening, or monitoring duties pursuant to this chapter, or a law-enforcement officer any information that is necessary and appropriate for the performance of his duties pursuant to this chapter. Any health care provider, as defined in § 32.1-127.1:03, or other provider who has provided or is currently evaluating or providing services to a person who is the subject of proceedings pursuant to this chapter shall disclose information that may be necessary for the treatment of such person to any other health care provider or other provider evaluating or providing services to or monitoring the treatment of the person. Health records disclosed to a law-enforcement officer shall be limited to information necessary to protect the officer, the person, or the public from physical injury or to address the health care needs of the person. Information disclosed

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59 to a law-enforcement officer shall not be used for any other purpose, disclosed to others, or retained.

60 Any health care provider providing services to a person who is the subject of proceedings under this  
61 chapter ~~may~~ *shall make a reasonable attempt to* notify the person's family member or personal  
62 representative, *including any agent named in an advance directive executed in accordance with the*  
63 *Health Care Decisions Act (§ 54.1-2981 et seq.),* of information that is directly relevant to such  
64 individual's involvement with the person's health care, which may include the person's location and  
65 general condition, in accordance with subdivision D 34 of § 32.1-127.1:03, unless the provider has  
66 actual knowledge that the family member or personal representative is currently prohibited by court  
67 order from contacting the person.

68 Any health care provider disclosing records pursuant to this section shall be immune from civil  
69 liability for any harm resulting from the disclosure, including any liability under the federal Health  
70 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (42 U.S.C. § 1320d et seq.), as amended, unless the person  
71 or provider disclosing such records intended the harm or acted in bad faith.

72 **§ 37.2-809. Involuntary temporary detention; issuance and execution of order.**

73 A. For the purposes of this section:

74 "Designee of the local community services board" means an examiner designated by the local  
75 community services board who (i) is skilled in the assessment and treatment of mental illness, (ii) has  
76 completed a certification program approved by the Department, (iii) is able to provide an independent  
77 examination of the person, (iv) is not related by blood or marriage to the person being evaluated, (v) has  
78 no financial interest in the admission or treatment of the person being evaluated, (vi) has no investment  
79 interest in the facility detaining or admitting the person under this article, and (vii) except for employees  
80 of state hospitals and of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is not employed by the facility.

81 "Employee" means an employee of the local community services board who is skilled in the  
82 assessment and treatment of mental illness and has completed a certification program approved by the  
83 Department.

84 "Investment interest" means the ownership or holding of an equity or debt security, including shares  
85 of stock in a corporation, interests or units of a partnership, bonds, debentures, notes, or other equity or  
86 debt instruments.

87 B. A magistrate shall issue, upon the sworn petition of any responsible person, treating physician, or  
88 upon his own motion and only after an evaluation conducted in-person or by means of a two-way  
89 electronic video and audio communication system as authorized in § 37.2-804.1 by an employee or a  
90 designee of the local community services board to determine whether the person meets the criteria for  
91 temporary detention, a temporary detention order if it appears from all evidence readily available,  
92 including any recommendation from a physician or clinical psychologist treating the person, that the  
93 person (i) has a mental illness and that there exists a substantial likelihood that, as a result of mental  
94 illness, the person will, in the near future, (a) cause serious physical harm to himself or others as  
95 evidenced by recent behavior causing, attempting, or threatening harm and other relevant information, if  
96 any, or (b) suffer serious harm due to his lack of capacity to protect himself from harm or to provide  
97 for his basic human needs; (ii) is in need of hospitalization or treatment; and (iii) is unwilling to  
98 volunteer or incapable of volunteering for hospitalization or treatment. The magistrate shall also  
99 consider, *if available*, the recommendations of (a) *the person's personal representative, including any*  
100 *agent named in an advance directive executed in accordance with the Health Care Decisions Act (§*  
101 *54.1-2981 et seq.), or any relative of the person and (b) any treating or examining physician licensed in*  
102 *Virginia if available either verbally or in writing prior to rendering a decision. Any temporary detention*  
103 *order entered pursuant to this section shall provide for the disclosure of medical records pursuant to*  
104 *§ 37.2-804.2. This subsection shall not preclude any other disclosures as required or permitted by law.*

105 C. When considering whether there is probable cause to issue a temporary detention order, the  
106 magistrate may, in addition to the petition, consider (i) the recommendations of any treating or  
107 examining physician or psychologist licensed in Virginia, if available, (ii) any past actions of the person,  
108 (iii) any past mental health treatment of the person, (iv) any relevant hearsay evidence, (v) any medical  
109 records available, (vi) any affidavits submitted, if the witness is unavailable and it so states in the  
110 affidavit, and (vii) any other information available that the magistrate considers relevant to the  
111 determination of whether probable cause exists to issue a temporary detention order.

112 D. A magistrate may issue a temporary detention order without an emergency custody order  
113 proceeding. A magistrate may issue a temporary detention order without a prior evaluation pursuant to  
114 subsection B if (i) the person has been personally examined within the previous 72 hours by an  
115 employee or a designee of the local community services board or (ii) there is a significant physical,  
116 psychological, or medical risk to the person or to others associated with conducting such evaluation.

117 E. An employee or a designee of the local community services board shall determine the facility of  
118 temporary detention in accordance with the provisions of § 37.2-809.1 for all individuals detained  
119 pursuant to this section. An employee or designee of the local community services board may change  
120 the facility of temporary detention and may designate an alternative facility for temporary detention at

any point during the period of temporary detention if it is determined that the alternative facility is a more appropriate facility for temporary detention of the individual given the specific security, medical, or behavioral health needs of the person. In cases in which the facility of temporary detention is changed following transfer of custody to an initial facility of temporary custody, transportation of the individual to the alternative facility of temporary detention shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of § 37.2-810. The initial facility of temporary detention shall be identified on the preadmission screening report and indicated on the temporary detention order; however, if an employee or designee of the local community services board designates an alternative facility, that employee or designee shall provide written notice forthwith, on a form developed by the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, to the clerk of the issuing court of the name and address of the alternative facility. Subject to the provisions of § 37.2-809.1, if a facility of temporary detention cannot be identified by the time of the expiration of the period of emergency custody pursuant to § 37.2-808, the individual shall be detained in a state facility for the treatment of individuals with mental illness and such facility shall be indicated on the temporary detention order. Except as provided in § 37.2-811 for inmates requiring hospitalization in accordance with subdivision A 2 of § 19.2-169.6, the person shall not be detained in a jail or other place of confinement for persons charged with criminal offenses and shall remain in the custody of law enforcement until the person is either detained within a secure facility or custody has been accepted by the appropriate personnel designated by either the initial facility of temporary detention identified in the temporary detention order or by the alternative facility of temporary detention designated by the employee or designee of the local community services board pursuant to this subsection. The person detained or in custody pursuant to this section shall be given a written summary of the temporary detention procedures and the statutory protections associated with those procedures.

F. Any facility caring for a person placed with it pursuant to a temporary detention order is authorized to provide emergency medical and psychiatric services within its capabilities when the facility determines that the services are in the best interests of the person within its care. The costs incurred as a result of the hearings and by the facility in providing services during the period of temporary detention shall be paid and recovered pursuant to § 37.2-804. The maximum costs reimbursable by the Commonwealth pursuant to this section shall be established by the State Board of Medical Assistance Services based on reasonable criteria. The State Board of Medical Assistance Services shall, by regulation, establish a reasonable rate per day of inpatient care for temporary detention.

G. The employee or the designee of the local community services board who is conducting the evaluation pursuant to this section shall determine, prior to the issuance of the temporary detention order, the insurance status of the person. Where coverage by a third party payor exists, the facility seeking reimbursement under this section shall first seek reimbursement from the third party payor. The Commonwealth shall reimburse the facility only for the balance of costs remaining after the allowances covered by the third party payor have been received.

H. The duration of temporary detention shall be sufficient to allow for completion of the examination required by § 37.2-815, preparation of the preadmission screening report required by § 37.2-816, and initiation of mental health treatment to stabilize the person's psychiatric condition to avoid involuntary commitment where possible, but shall not exceed 72 hours prior to a hearing. If the 72-hour period herein specified terminates on a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or day on which the court is lawfully closed, the person may be detained, as herein provided, until the close of business on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or day on which the court is lawfully closed. The person may be released, pursuant to § 37.2-813, before the 72-hour period herein specified has run.

I. If a temporary detention order is not executed within 24 hours of its issuance, or within a shorter period as is specified in the order, the order shall be void and shall be returned unexecuted to the office of the clerk of the issuing court or, if the office is not open, to any magistrate serving the jurisdiction of the issuing court. Subsequent orders may be issued upon the original petition within 96 hours after the petition is filed. However, a magistrate must again obtain the advice of an employee or a designee of the local community services board prior to issuing a subsequent order upon the original petition. Any petition for which no temporary detention order or other process in connection therewith is served on the subject of the petition within 96 hours after the petition is filed shall be void and shall be returned to the office of the clerk of the issuing court.

J. The Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia shall establish and require that a magistrate, as provided by this section, be available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, for the purpose of performing the duties established by this section. Each community services board shall provide to each general district court and magistrate's office within its service area a list of its employees and designees who are available to perform the evaluations required herein.

K. For purposes of this section, a health care provider or designee of a local community services board or behavioral health authority shall not be required to encrypt any email containing information or

182 medical records provided to a magistrate unless there is reason to believe that a third party will attempt  
183 to intercept the email.

184 L. ~~The~~ *If the* employee or designee of the community services board who is conducting the  
185 evaluation pursuant to this section ~~shall, if he~~ recommends that the person should not be subject to a  
186 temporary detention order, *such employee or designee shall* (i) inform the petitioner, *the person's*  
187 *personal representative, including any agent named in an advance directive executed in accordance with*  
188 *the Health Care Decisions Act (§ 54.1-2981 et seq.), and an onsite treating physician of his*  
189 *recommendation; (ii) include in the evaluation any available recommendations of the petitioner, the*  
190 *person's personal representative, or any treating or examining physician that are contrary to the*  
191 *recommendations of the employee or designee; and (iii) upon request of the petitioner, arrange for the*  
192 *petitioner to communicate with the magistrate in person or by means of a two-way electronic video and*  
193 *audio communication system prior to the expiration of the period of emergency custody and before the*  
194 *magistrate acts on the petition. During any communications between the petitioner and the magistrate*  
195 *pursuant to clause (iii), the magistrate shall hear any available recommendations of the petitioner, the*  
196 *person's personal representative, or any treating or examining physician and consider such*  
197 *recommendations pursuant to subsection B in making his determination to issue a temporary detention*  
198 *order.*