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**HOUSE BILL NO. 934**

House Amendments in [ ] — February 1, 2018

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 17.1-406, 17.1-410, and 37.2-803 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 53.1 sections numbered 53.1-133.04 and 53.1-133.05, relating to medical and mental health treatment of prisoners incapable of giving consent.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Hope

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

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

**1. That §§ 17.1-406, 17.1-410, and 37.2-803 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 53.1 sections numbered 53.1-133.04 and 53.1-133.05 as follows:**

**§ 17.1-406. Petitions for appeal; cases over which Court of Appeals does not have jurisdiction.**

A. Any aggrieved party may present a petition for appeal to the Court of Appeals from (i) any final conviction in a circuit court of a traffic infraction or a crime, except where a sentence of death has been imposed, (ii) any final decision of a circuit court on an application for a concealed weapons permit pursuant to Article 6.1 (§ 18.2-307.1 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2, (iii) any final order of a circuit court involving involuntary treatment of prisoners pursuant to § 53.1-40.1 *or 53.1-133.04*, or (iv) any final order for declaratory or injunctive relief under § 57-2.02. The Commonwealth or any county, city or town may petition the Court of Appeals for an appeal pursuant to this subsection in any case in which such party previously could have petitioned the Supreme Court for a writ of error under § 19.2-317. The Commonwealth may also petition the Court of Appeals for an appeal in a criminal case pursuant to § 19.2-398.

B. In accordance with other applicable provisions of law, appeals lie directly to the Supreme Court from a conviction in which a sentence of death is imposed, from a final decision, judgment or order of a circuit court involving a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, from any final finding, decision, order, or judgment of the State Corporation Commission, and from proceedings under §§ 54.1-3935 and 54.1-3937. Complaints of the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission shall be filed with the Supreme Court of Virginia. The Court of Appeals shall not have jurisdiction over any cases or proceedings described in this subsection.

**§ 17.1-410. Disposition of appeals; finality of decisions.**

A. Each appeal of right taken to the Court of Appeals and each appeal for which a petition for appeal has been granted shall be considered by a panel of the court.

When the Court of Appeals has (i) rejected a petition for appeal, (ii) dismissed an appeal in any case in accordance with the Rules of Court, or (iii) decided an appeal, its decision shall be final, without appeal to the Supreme Court, in:

1. Traffic infraction and misdemeanor cases where no incarceration is imposed;
2. Cases originating before any administrative agency or the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission;
3. Cases involving the affirmance or annulment of a marriage, divorce, custody, spousal or child support or the control or disposition of a juvenile and other domestic relations cases arising under Title 16.1 or Title 20, or involving adoption under Chapter 12 (§ 63.2-1200 et seq.) of Title 63.2;
4. Appeals in criminal cases pursuant to §§ 19.2-398 and 19.2-401. Such finality of the Court of Appeals' decision shall not preclude a defendant, if he is convicted, from requesting the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court on direct appeal to reconsider an issue which was the subject of the pretrial appeal; and

5. Appeals involving involuntary treatment of prisoners pursuant to § 53.1-40.1 *or 53.1-133.04*.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, in any case other than an appeal pursuant to § 19.2-398, in which the Supreme Court determines on a petition for review that the decision of the Court of Appeals involves a substantial constitutional question as a determinative issue or matters of significant precedential value, review may be had in the Supreme Court in accordance with the provisions of § 17.1-411.

**§ 37.2-803. Special justices to perform duties of judge.**

The chief judge of each judicial circuit may appoint one or more special justices, for the purpose of performing the duties required of a judge by this chapter, Chapter 11 (§ 37.2-1100 et seq.), and §§ 16.1-69.28, 16.1-335 through 16.1-348, 19.2-169.6, 19.2-174.1, 19.2-182.9, 53.1-40.1, 53.1-40.2, and

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59 53.1-40.9, and 53.1-133.04. Each special justice shall be a person licensed to practice law in the  
60 Commonwealth or a retired or substitute judge in good standing and shall have all the powers and  
61 jurisdiction conferred upon a judge. The special justice shall serve under the supervision and at the  
62 pleasure of the chief judge of the judicial circuit for a period of up to six years. The special justice may  
63 be reappointed and may serve additional periods of up to six years, at the pleasure of the chief judge.  
64 Within six months of appointment, each special justice appointed on or after January 1, 1996, shall  
65 complete a minimum training program prescribed by the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court.  
66 Special justices shall collect the fees prescribed in this chapter for their service and shall retain those  
67 fees, unless the governing body of the county or city in which the services are performed provides for  
68 the payment of an annual salary for the services, in which case the fees shall be collected and paid into  
69 the treasury of that county or city.

70 **§ 53.1-133.04. Medical and mental health treatment of prisoners incapable of giving consent.**

71 A. The sheriff or administrator in charge of a local or regional correctional facility or his designee  
72 may petition the circuit court or any district court judge or any special justice, as defined in § 37.2-100,  
73 herein referred to as the court, of the county or city in which the prisoner is located for an order  
74 authorizing treatment of a prisoner confined in the local or regional correctional facility. The court  
75 shall authorize such treatment in a facility designated by the sheriff or administrator upon finding, on  
76 the basis of clear and convincing evidence, that the prisoner is incapable, either mentally or physically,  
77 of giving informed consent to such treatment and that the proposed treatment is in the best interests of  
78 the prisoner. The facility designated for treatment by the sheriff or administrator may be located within  
79 a local or regional correctional facility if such facility is licensed to provide the treatment authorized by  
80 the court order.

81 B. Prior to the court's authorization of such treatment, the court shall appoint an attorney to  
82 represent the interests of the prisoner. Evidence shall be presented concerning the prisoner's condition  
83 and proposed treatment, which evidence may, in the court's discretion and in the absence of objection  
84 by the prisoner or the prisoner's attorney, be submitted by affidavit.

85 C. Any order authorizing treatment pursuant to subsection A shall describe the treatment authorized  
86 and authorize generally such examinations, tests, medications, and other treatments as are in the best  
87 interests of the prisoner but may not authorize nontherapeutic sterilization, abortion, or psychosurgery.  
88 Such order shall require the licensed physician, psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, professional  
89 counselor, or clinical social worker acting within his area of expertise who is treating the prisoner to  
90 report to the court and the prisoner's attorney any change in the prisoner's condition resulting in  
91 restoration of the prisoner's capability to consent prior to completion of the authorized treatment and  
92 related services. Upon receipt of such report, the court may enter such order withdrawing or modifying  
93 its prior authorization as it deems appropriate. Any petition or order under this section may be orally  
94 presented or entered, provided that a written order is subsequently executed.

95 D. Any order of a judge under subsection A may be appealed de novo within 10 days to the circuit  
96 court for the jurisdiction where the prisoner is located, and any order of a circuit court hereunder,  
97 either originally or on appeal, may be appealed within 10 days to the Court of Appeals, which shall  
98 give such appeal priority and hear the appeal as soon as possible.

99 E. Whenever the director of any hospital or facility reasonably believes that treatment is necessary to  
100 protect the life, health, or safety of a prisoner, such treatment may be given during the period allowed  
101 for any appeal unless prohibited by order of a court of record wherein the appeal is pending.

102 F. Upon the advice of a licensed physician, psychiatrist, or clinical psychologist acting within his  
103 area of expertise who has attempted to obtain consent and upon a finding of probable cause to believe  
104 that a prisoner is incapable, due to any physical or mental condition, of giving informed consent to  
105 treatment and that the medical standard of care calls for testing, observation, or other treatment within  
106 the next 12 hours to prevent death, disability, or a serious irreversible condition, the court or, if the  
107 court is unavailable, a magistrate shall issue an order authorizing temporary admission of the prisoner  
108 to a hospital or other health care facility and authorizing such testing, observation, or other treatment.  
109 Such order shall expire after a period of 12 hours unless extended by the court as part of an order  
110 authorizing treatment under subsection A.

111 G. Any licensed health or mental health professional or licensed facility providing services pursuant  
112 to the court's or magistrate's authorization as provided in this section shall have no liability arising out  
113 of a claim to the extent that it is based on lack of consent to such services [ , except with respect to  
114 injury or death resulting from gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct ] . Any such  
115 professional or facility providing services with the consent of the prisoner receiving treatment shall have  
116 no liability arising out of a claim to the extent that it is based on lack of capacity to consent [ , except  
117 with respect to injury or death resulting from gross negligence or willful and wanton misconduct, ] if a  
118 court or a magistrate has denied a petition hereunder to authorize such services, and such denial was  
119 based on an affirmative finding that the prisoner was capable of making an informed decision regarding  
120 the proposed services.

H. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit or repeal any common law rule relating to consent for medical treatment or the right to apply or the authority conferred by any other applicable statute or regulation relating to consent.

**§ 53.1-133.05. Place of hearing on medical or mental health treatment of prisoners incapable of giving consent; fees and expenses.**

A. Any hearing held by a court pursuant to § 53.1-133.04 may be held in any courtroom available within the county or city wherein the prisoner is located or any appropriate place which may be made available by the sheriff or administrator in charge of a local or regional correctional facility and approved by the judge. Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting holding the hearing on the grounds of a correctional facility or a hospital or facility for the care and treatment of individuals with mental illness.

B. Any special justice, as defined in § 37.2-100, and any district court substitute judge who presides over hearings pursuant to the provisions of § 53.1-133.04 shall receive a fee as provided in § 37.2-804 for each proceeding under § 53.1-133.04 and his necessary mileage. However, if a commitment hearing under § 19.2-169.6 and the proceeding under § 53.1-133.04 are combined for hearing or are heard on the same day, only one fee shall be allowed.

C. Every physician or clinical psychologist who is not regularly employed by the Commonwealth who is required to serve as a witness for the Commonwealth in any proceeding under § 53.1-133.04 shall receive a fee as provided in § 37.2-804. Other witnesses regularly summoned before a judge shall receive such compensation for their attendance and mileage as is allowed witnesses summoned to testify before grand juries.

D. Every attorney appointed under § 53.1-133.04 shall receive a fee as provided in § 37.2-804 for each proceeding under § 53.1-133.04 for which he is appointed. However, if a commitment hearing under § 19.2-169.6 and the proceeding under § 53.1-133.04 are combined for hearing or are heard on the same day, only one fee shall be allowed.

E. Except as hereinafter provided, all expenses incurred, including the fees, attendance, and mileage aforesaid, shall be paid by the Commonwealth. Any such fees, costs, and expenses incurred in connection with a proceeding under § 53.1-133.04, when paid by the Commonwealth, shall be recoverable by the Commonwealth from the prisoner who is the subject of the examination, hearing, or proceeding or from his estate. No such fees or costs shall be recovered, however, from the prisoner or his estate when no good cause for his admission exists or when the recovery would create an undue financial hardship.

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