

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 16.1-69.21 of the Code of Virginia, relating to substitute judges; powers*
3 *and duties; entry of final order.*

4
5 Approved

[H 60]

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

7 **1. That § 16.1-69.21 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 **§ 16.1-69.21. When substitute to serve; his powers and duties.**

9 In the event of the inability of the judge to perform the duties of his office or any of them by reason
10 of sickness, absence, vacation, interest in the proceeding or parties before the court, or otherwise, such
11 judge or a person acting on his behalf shall promptly notify the appropriate chief district judge of such
12 inability. If the chief district judge determines that the provisions of § 16.1-69.35 have been complied
13 with or cannot reasonably be done within the time permitted and that no other full-time or retired judge
14 is reasonably available to serve, the chief district judge may direct a substitute judge to serve as a judge
15 of the court, which substitute may serve concurrently with one or more of the judges of the court or
16 alone. When reasonably necessary, the chief district judge may designate a substitute judge from another
17 district within the Commonwealth. The committee on district courts may adopt policies and procedures
18 governing the utilization of substitute judges. In such event, those policies and procedures will, where
19 applicable, control. While acting as judge, a substitute judge shall perform the same duties, exercise the
20 same power and authority, and be subject to the same obligations as prescribed herein for the judge. *A*
21 *substitute judge shall retain the power to enter a final order in any case heard by such substitute judge*
22 *for a period of 14 days after the date of a hearing of such case.* While serving as judge of the court,
23 the judge or the substitute judge may perform all acts with respect to the proceedings, judgments and
24 acts of any other judge in connection with any action or proceeding then pending or theretofore disposed
25 of in the court except as otherwise provided in this chapter in the same manner and with the same force
26 and effect as if they were his own.

ENROLLED

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