

20201229D

## SENATE BILL NO. 5038

## AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Public Safety  
on September 21, 2020)

(Patrons Prior to Substitute—Senators McPike and McClellan [SB 5084])

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 9.1-102 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 37.2 an article numbered 5, consisting of sections numbered 37.2-320 through 37.2-323, relating to community care teams and mental health awareness response and community understanding services (Marcus) alert system.*

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

**1. That § 9.1-102 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 37.2 an article numbered 5, consisting of sections numbered 37.2-320 through 37.2-323, as follows:**

**§ 9.1-102. Powers and duties of the Board and the Department.**

The Department, under the direction of the Board, which shall be the policy-making body for carrying out the duties and powers hereunder, shall have the power and duty to:

1. Adopt regulations, pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), for the administration of this chapter including the authority to require the submission of reports and information by law-enforcement officers within the Commonwealth. Any proposed regulations concerning the privacy, confidentiality, and security of criminal justice information shall be submitted for review and comment to any board, commission, or committee or other body which may be established by the General Assembly to regulate the privacy, confidentiality, and security of information collected and maintained by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof;

2. Establish compulsory minimum training standards subsequent to employment as a law-enforcement officer in (i) permanent positions, and (ii) temporary or probationary status, and establish the time required for completion of such training;

3. Establish minimum training standards and qualifications for certification and recertification for law-enforcement officers serving as field training officers;

4. Establish compulsory minimum curriculum requirements for in-service and advanced courses and programs for schools, whether located in or outside the Commonwealth, which are operated for the specific purpose of training law-enforcement officers;

5. Establish (i) compulsory minimum training standards for law-enforcement officers who utilize radar or an electrical or microcomputer device to measure the speed of motor vehicles as provided in § 46.2-882 and establish the time required for completion of the training and (ii) compulsory minimum qualifications for certification and recertification of instructors who provide such training;

6. [Repealed];

7. Establish compulsory minimum entry-level, in-service and advanced training standards for those persons designated to provide courthouse and courtroom security pursuant to the provisions of § 53.1-120, and to establish the time required for completion of such training;

8. Establish compulsory minimum entry-level, in-service and advanced training standards for deputy sheriffs designated to serve process pursuant to the provisions of § 8.01-293, and establish the time required for the completion of such training;

9. Establish compulsory minimum entry-level, in-service, and advanced training standards, as well as the time required for completion of such training, for persons employed as deputy sheriffs and jail officers by local criminal justice agencies and correctional officers employed by the Department of Corrections under the provisions of Title 53.1. For correctional officers employed by the Department of Corrections, such standards shall include training on the general care of pregnant women, the impact of restraints on pregnant inmates and fetuses, the impact of being placed in restrictive housing or solitary confinement on pregnant inmates, and the impact of body cavity searches on pregnant inmates;

10. Establish compulsory minimum training standards for all dispatchers employed by or in any local or state government agency, whose duties include the dispatching of law-enforcement personnel. Such training standards shall apply only to dispatchers hired on or after July 1, 1988;

11. Establish compulsory minimum training standards for all auxiliary police officers employed by or in any local or state government agency. Such training shall be graduated and based on the type of duties to be performed by the auxiliary police officers. Such training standards shall not apply to auxiliary police officers exempt pursuant to § 15.2-1731;

12. Consult and cooperate with counties, municipalities, agencies of the Commonwealth, other state and federal governmental agencies, and institutions of higher education within or outside the Commonwealth, concerning the development of police training schools and programs or courses of

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60 instruction;

61 13. Approve institutions, curricula and facilities, whether located in or outside the Commonwealth,  
62 for school operation for the specific purpose of training law-enforcement officers; but this shall not  
63 prevent the holding of any such school whether approved or not;

64 14. Establish and maintain police training programs through such agencies and institutions as the  
65 Board deems appropriate;

66 15. Establish compulsory minimum qualifications of certification and recertification for instructors in  
67 criminal justice training schools approved by the Department;

68 16. Conduct and stimulate research by public and private agencies which shall be designed to  
69 improve police administration and law enforcement;

70 17. Make recommendations concerning any matter within its purview pursuant to this chapter;

71 18. Coordinate its activities with those of any interstate system for the exchange of criminal history  
72 record information, nominate one or more of its members to serve upon the council or committee of any  
73 such system, and participate when and as deemed appropriate in any such system's activities and  
74 programs;

75 19. Conduct inquiries and investigations it deems appropriate to carry out its functions under this  
76 chapter and, in conducting such inquiries and investigations, may require any criminal justice agency to  
77 submit information, reports, and statistical data with respect to its policy and operation of information  
78 systems or with respect to its collection, storage, dissemination, and usage of criminal history record  
79 information and correctional status information, and such criminal justice agencies shall submit such  
80 information, reports, and data as are reasonably required;

81 20. Conduct audits as required by § 9.1-131;

82 21. Conduct a continuing study and review of questions of individual privacy and confidentiality of  
83 criminal history record information and correctional status information;

84 22. Advise criminal justice agencies and initiate educational programs for such agencies with respect  
85 to matters of privacy, confidentiality, and security as they pertain to criminal history record information  
86 and correctional status information;

87 23. Maintain a liaison with any board, commission, committee, or other body which may be  
88 established by law, executive order, or resolution to regulate the privacy and security of information  
89 collected by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof;

90 24. Adopt regulations establishing guidelines and standards for the collection, storage, and  
91 dissemination of criminal history record information and correctional status information, and the privacy,  
92 confidentiality, and security thereof necessary to implement state and federal statutes, regulations, and  
93 court orders;

94 25. Operate a statewide criminal justice research center, which shall maintain an integrated criminal  
95 justice information system, produce reports, provide technical assistance to state and local criminal  
96 justice data system users, and provide analysis and interpretation of criminal justice statistical  
97 information;

98 26. Develop a comprehensive, statewide, long-range plan for strengthening and improving law  
99 enforcement and the administration of criminal justice throughout the Commonwealth, and periodically  
100 update that plan;

101 27. Cooperate with, and advise and assist, all agencies, departments, boards and institutions of the  
102 Commonwealth, and units of general local government, or combinations thereof, including planning  
103 district commissions, in planning, developing, and administering programs, projects, comprehensive  
104 plans, and other activities for improving law enforcement and the administration of criminal justice  
105 throughout the Commonwealth, including allocating and subgranting funds for these purposes;

106 28. Define, develop, organize, encourage, conduct, coordinate, and administer programs, projects and  
107 activities for the Commonwealth and units of general local government, or combinations thereof, in the  
108 Commonwealth, designed to strengthen and improve law enforcement and the administration of criminal  
109 justice at every level throughout the Commonwealth;

110 29. Review and evaluate programs, projects, and activities, and recommend, where necessary,  
111 revisions or alterations to such programs, projects, and activities for the purpose of improving law  
112 enforcement and the administration of criminal justice;

113 30. Coordinate the activities and projects of the state departments, agencies, and boards of the  
114 Commonwealth and of the units of general local government, or combination thereof, including planning  
115 district commissions, relating to the preparation, adoption, administration, and implementation of  
116 comprehensive plans to strengthen and improve law enforcement and the administration of criminal  
117 justice;

118 31. Do all things necessary on behalf of the Commonwealth and its units of general local  
119 government, to determine and secure benefits available under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe  
120 Streets Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-351, 82 Stat. 197), as amended, and under any other federal acts and  
121 programs for strengthening and improving law enforcement, the administration of criminal justice, and

delinquency prevention and control;

32. Receive, administer, and expend all funds and other assistance available to the Board and the Department for carrying out the purposes of this chapter and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended;

33. Apply for and accept grants from the United States government or any other source in carrying out the purposes of this chapter and accept any and all donations both real and personal, and grants of money from any governmental unit or public agency, or from any institution, person, firm or corporation, and may receive, utilize and dispose of the same. Any arrangements pursuant to this section shall be detailed in the annual report of the Board. Such report shall include the identity of the donor, the nature of the transaction, and the conditions, if any. Any moneys received pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the state treasury to the account of the Department. To these ends, the Board shall have the power to comply with conditions and execute such agreements as may be necessary;

34. Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and execution of its powers under this chapter, including but not limited to, contracts with the United States, units of general local government or combinations thereof, in Virginia or other states, and with agencies and departments of the Commonwealth;

35. Adopt and administer reasonable regulations for the planning and implementation of programs and activities and for the allocation, expenditure and subgranting of funds available to the Commonwealth and to units of general local government, and for carrying out the purposes of this chapter and the powers and duties set forth herein;

36. Certify and decertify law-enforcement officers in accordance with §§ 15.2-1706 and 15.2-1707;

37. Establish training standards and publish and periodically update model policies for law-enforcement personnel in the following subjects:

a. The handling of family abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases, including standards for determining the predominant physical aggressor in accordance with § 19.2-81.3. The Department shall provide technical support and assistance to law-enforcement agencies in carrying out the requirements set forth in subsection A of § 9.1-1301;

b. Communication with and facilitation of the safe return of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease;

c. Sensitivity to and awareness of cultural diversity and the potential for biased policing;

d. Protocols for local and regional sexual assault response teams;

e. Communication of death notifications;

f. The questioning of individuals suspected of driving while intoxicated concerning the physical location of such individual's last consumption of an alcoholic beverage and the communication of such information to the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority;

g. Vehicle patrol duties that embody current best practices for pursuits and for responding to emergency calls;

h. Criminal investigations that embody current best practices for conducting photographic and live lineups;

i. Sensitivity to and awareness of human trafficking offenses and the identification of victims of human trafficking offenses for personnel involved in criminal investigations or assigned to vehicle or street patrol duties; ~~and~~

j. Missing children, missing adults, and search and rescue protocol; *and*

k. *De-escalation of crisis situations, with a focus on mental health, substance abuse, and behavioral health crises;*

38. Establish compulsory training standards for basic training and the recertification of law-enforcement officers to ensure sensitivity to and awareness of cultural diversity and the potential for biased policing;

39. Review and evaluate community-policing programs in the Commonwealth, and recommend where necessary statewide operating procedures, guidelines, and standards which strengthen and improve such programs, including sensitivity to and awareness of cultural diversity and the potential for biased policing;

40. Establish a Virginia Law-Enforcement Accreditation Center. The Center may, in cooperation with Virginia law-enforcement agencies, provide technical assistance and administrative support, including staffing, for the establishment of voluntary state law-enforcement accreditation standards. The Center may provide accreditation assistance and training, resource material, and research into methods and procedures that will assist the Virginia law-enforcement community efforts to obtain Virginia accreditation status;

41. Promote community policing philosophy and practice throughout the Commonwealth by providing community policing training and technical assistance statewide to all law-enforcement agencies, community groups, public and private organizations and citizens; developing and distributing

183 innovative policing curricula and training tools on general community policing philosophy and practice  
184 and contemporary critical issues facing Virginia communities; serving as a consultant to Virginia  
185 organizations with specific community policing needs; facilitating continued development and  
186 implementation of community policing programs statewide through discussion forums for community  
187 policing leaders, development of law-enforcement instructors; promoting a statewide community policing  
188 initiative; and serving as a statewide information source on the subject of community policing including,  
189 but not limited to periodic newsletters, a website and an accessible lending library;

190 42. Establish, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Virginia State Crime  
191 Commission, compulsory minimum standards for employment and job-entry and in-service training  
192 curricula and certification requirements for school security officers, including school security officers  
193 described in clause (b) of § 22.1-280.2:1, which training and certification shall be administered by the  
194 Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) pursuant to § 9.1-184. Such training standards  
195 shall be specific to the role and responsibility of school security officers and shall include (i) relevant  
196 state and federal laws; (ii) school and personal liability issues; (iii) security awareness in the school  
197 environment; (iv) mediation and conflict resolution, including de-escalation techniques such as a physical  
198 alternative to restraint; (v) disaster and emergency response; (vi) awareness of cultural diversity and  
199 implicit bias; (vii) working with students with disabilities, mental health needs, substance abuse  
200 disorders, and past traumatic experiences; and (viii) student behavioral dynamics, including child and  
201 adolescent development and brain research. The Department shall establish an advisory committee  
202 consisting of local school board representatives, principals, superintendents, and school security  
203 personnel to assist in the development of the standards and certification requirements in this subdivision.  
204 The Department shall require any school security officer who carries a firearm in the performance of his  
205 duties to provide proof that he has completed a training course provided by a federal, state, or local  
206 law-enforcement agency that includes training in active shooter emergency response, emergency  
207 evacuation procedure, and threat assessment;

208 43. License and regulate property bail bondsmen and surety bail bondsmen in accordance with  
209 Article 11 (§ 9.1-185 et seq.);

210 44. License and regulate bail enforcement agents in accordance with Article 12 (§ 9.1-186 et seq.);

211 45. In conjunction with the Virginia State Police and the State Compensation Board, advise criminal  
212 justice agencies regarding the investigation, registration, and dissemination of information requirements  
213 as they pertain to the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry Act (§ 9.1-900 et seq.);

214 46. Establish minimum standards for (i) employment, (ii) job-entry and in-service training curricula,  
215 and (iii) certification requirements for campus security officers. Such training standards shall include, but  
216 not be limited to, the role and responsibility of campus security officers, relevant state and federal laws,  
217 school and personal liability issues, security awareness in the campus environment, and disaster and  
218 emergency response. The Department shall provide technical support and assistance to campus police  
219 departments and campus security departments on the establishment and implementation of policies and  
220 procedures, including but not limited to: the management of such departments, investigatory procedures,  
221 judicial referrals, the establishment and management of databases for campus safety and security  
222 information sharing, and development of uniform record keeping for disciplinary records and statistics,  
223 such as campus crime logs, judicial referrals and Clery Act statistics. The Department shall establish an  
224 advisory committee consisting of college administrators, college police chiefs, college security  
225 department chiefs, and local law-enforcement officials to assist in the development of the standards and  
226 certification requirements and training pursuant to this subdivision;

227 47. Assess and report, in accordance with § 9.1-190, the crisis intervention team programs established  
228 pursuant to § 9.1-187;

229 48. In conjunction with the Office of the Attorney General, advise law-enforcement agencies and  
230 attorneys for the Commonwealth regarding the identification, investigation, and prosecution of human  
231 trafficking offenses using the common law and existing criminal statutes in the Code of Virginia;

232 49. Register tow truck drivers in accordance with § 46.2-116 and carry out the provisions of  
233 § 46.2-117;

234 50. Administer the activities of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional  
235 Standards Committee by providing technical assistance and administrative support, including staffing, for  
236 the Committee;

237 51. In accordance with § 9.1-102.1, design and approve the issuance of photo-identification cards to  
238 private security services registrants registered pursuant to Article 4 (§ 9.1-138 et seq.);

239 52. In consultation with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and the Virginia  
240 Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, develop multidisciplinary curricula on  
241 trauma-informed sexual assault investigation;

242 53. In consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, develop a  
243 model addiction recovery program that may be administered by sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, jail officers,  
244 administrators, or superintendents in any local or regional jail. Such program shall be based on any

existing addiction recovery programs that are being administered by any local or regional jails in the Commonwealth. Participation in the model addiction recovery program shall be voluntary, and such program may address aspects of the recovery process, including medical and clinical recovery, peer-to-peer support, availability of mental health resources, family dynamics, and aftercare aspects of the recovery process;

54. Establish compulsory minimum training standards for certification and recertification of law-enforcement officers serving as school resource officers. Such training shall be specific to the role and responsibility of a law-enforcement officer working with students in a school environment and shall include (i) relevant state and federal laws; (ii) school and personal liability issues; (iii) security awareness in the school environment; (iv) mediation and conflict resolution, including de-escalation techniques; (v) disaster and emergency response; (vi) awareness of cultural diversity and implicit bias; (vii) working with students with disabilities, mental health needs, substance abuse disorders, or past traumatic experiences; and (viii) student behavioral dynamics, including current child and adolescent development and brain research;

55. Establish a model policy for the operation of body-worn camera systems as defined in § 15.2-1723.1 that also addresses the storage and maintenance of body-worn camera system records;

56. Establish compulsory minimum training standards for detector canine handlers employed by the Department of Corrections, standards for the training and retention of detector canines used by the Department of Corrections, and a central database on the performance and effectiveness of such detector canines that requires the Department of Corrections to submit comprehensive information on each canine handler and detector canine, including the number and types of calls and searches, substances searched for and whether or not detected, and the number of false positives, false negatives, true positives, and true negatives;

57. Establish compulsory training standards for basic training of law-enforcement officers for recognizing and managing stress, self-care techniques, and resiliency; ~~and~~

58. *Assess and report, in accordance with § 37.2-323, the Marcus alert system and community care teams established pursuant to § 37.2-320; and*

59. Perform such other acts as may be necessary or convenient for the effective performance of its duties.

#### Article 5.

#### *Mental Health Awareness Response and Community Understanding Services (Marcus) Alert System and Community Care Teams.*

**§ 37.2-320. Establishment of mental health awareness response and community understanding services (Marcus) alert system and community care teams.**

A. As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Area" means a combination of one or more localities that may have law-enforcement officers as defined in § 9.1-101.

"Body-worn camera system" means the same as that term is defined in § 15.2-1723.1.

"Community care team" means a group of mental health service providers working with registered peer recovery specialists and law-enforcement officers as a team, with the mental health service providers leading such team, to help stabilize individuals in crisis situations. In addition to serving as a co-response unit, community care teams may, at the discretion of the employing locality, engage in community mental health awareness and services. Community care teams shall respond to crisis situations involving persons whose behaviors are consistent with mental illness or substance abuse, or both, including individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis that is secondary to mental illness, substance abuse, developmental or intellectual disability, brain injury, or any combination thereof.

"Dispatcher" means the same as that term is defined in § 56-484.16:1.

"Historically economically disadvantaged community" means the same as that term is defined in § 56-576.

"Mental health awareness response and community understanding services (Marcus) alert system" or "Marcus alert system" means a process in which a call for service or other communication to an emergency 911 system or that is communicated with any other equivalent reporting system is routed for the appropriate services, including calls for service being directed to a community care team.

"Mental health service provider" means the same as that term is defined in § 54.1-2400.1.

"Registered peer recovery specialist" means the same as that term is defined in § 54.1-3500.

B. The goals of a Marcus alert system shall be to:

1. Provide immediate response and services by specially trained mental health service providers and registered peer recovery specialists, with law-enforcement officers who shall serve as backup if the scene becomes unstable or unsafe;

2. Afford persons whose behaviors are consistent with mental illness or substance abuse problems, or both, a sense of dignity in crisis situations;

306 3. Reduce the likelihood of physical confrontation;  
307 4. Decrease arrests and use of force incidents by law-enforcement officers;  
308 5. Identify underserved populations in historically economically disadvantaged communities whose  
309 behaviors are consistent with mental illness or substance abuse, or both, including individuals  
310 experiencing a behavioral health crisis that is secondary to mental illness, substance abuse,  
311 developmental or intellectual disability, brain injury, or any combination thereof, are directed and  
312 referred to, and provided with, appropriate care, including follow-up and wrap-around services to  
313 individuals, family members, and caregivers to reduce the likelihood of future crises;  
314 6. Provide support and assistance for mental health service providers and law-enforcement officers;  
315 7. Decrease the use of arrest and detention of persons whose behaviors are consistent with mental  
316 illness or substance abuse problems, or both, by providing better access to timely treatment;  
317 8. Provide a therapeutic location or protocol to bring individuals in crisis for assessment that is not  
318 a law-enforcement or jail facility;  
319 9. Increase public recognition and appreciation for the mental health needs of a community;  
320 10. Decrease injuries during crisis events;  
321 11. Reduce inappropriate arrests of individuals whose behaviors are consistent with mental illness in  
322 crisis situations;  
323 12. Decrease the need for mental health treatment in jail;  
324 13. Accelerate access to care for individuals in crisis through improved and streamlined referral  
325 mechanisms to mental health services;  
326 14. Improve the notifications made to the community care team and the public of an individual  
327 experiencing a mental health crisis if the individual poses an immediate public safety threat or threat to  
328 self; and  
329 15. Decrease the use of psychiatric hospitalizations as treatment for mental health crises.

330 C. 1. The Department and the Department of Criminal Justice Services, in collaboration with the  
331 Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, local government organizations, and law-enforcement,  
332 emergency management, mental health, behavioral health, substance abuse recovery, brain injury, and  
333 racial equity stakeholders, shall develop a detailed plan for the establishment of a Marcus alert system  
334 that uses community care teams in community service boards or behavioral health authority  
335 geographical areas throughout the Commonwealth. In developing the plan, the Departments,  
336 organizations, and stakeholders shall (i) inventory past and current crisis intervention teams established  
337 pursuant to Article 13 (§ 9.1-187 et seq.) of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1 throughout the Commonwealth that  
338 have received state funding; (ii) inventory the existence, status, and experiences of community services  
339 board mobile crisis teams and crisis stabilization units; (iii) identify any other existing cooperative  
340 relationships between community services boards and law-enforcement agencies; (iv) review the  
341 prevalence of crisis situations involving mental illness or substance abuse, or both, including individuals  
342 experiencing a behavioral health crisis that is secondary to mental illness, substance abuse,  
343 developmental or intellectual disability, brain injury, or any combination thereof; and (v) identify state  
344 and local funding of emergency and crisis services.

345 2. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of  
346 Criminal Justice Services shall submit the detailed plan developed pursuant to subdivision 1 to the Joint  
347 Commission on Health Care no later than June 1, 2021. The plan shall build upon the current  
348 organizational capacities of community services boards, crisis intervention teams, agencies of the  
349 Commonwealth, and local law-enforcement agencies. The plan shall include details of how the goals of  
350 the Marcus alert system set forth in subsection B will be met, including the assignment of specific  
351 responsibilities, duties, and authorities among responsible state and local entities. The plan shall also  
352 establish criteria for the development of community care teams that shall include assessment of the  
353 effectiveness of a locality's or area's plan for community involvement, including engaging with and  
354 providing services to historically economically disadvantaged communities, training, and therapeutic  
355 response alternatives.

356 D. 1. No later than July 1, 2021, the Department shall establish five Marcus alert programs and  
357 community care teams, one located in each of the five Department regions as follows: (i) in Region 1,  
358 in the geographical area served by the Northwestern Community Services Board; (ii) in Region 2, in the  
359 geographical area served by the Alexandria Community Services Board; (iii) in Region 3, in the  
360 geographical area served by the Mount Rogers Community Services Board; (iv) in Region 4, in the  
361 geographical area served by the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority; and (v) in Region 5, in the  
362 geographical area served by the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board.

363 2. No later than July 1, 2023, the Department shall establish five additional Marcus alert system  
364 programs and community care teams, one located in each of the five Department regions. Community  
365 service boards or behavioral health authorities that serve the largest populations in each region,  
366 excluding those community service boards or behavioral health authorities already selected under  
367 subdivision 1, shall be selected for programs under this subdivision.

3. The Department and the Department of Criminal Justice Services shall submit to the Joint Commission on Health Care an interim report by November 1, 2022, and a final report by November 1, 2023, assessing the impact and effectiveness of the community care teams in meeting their goals. The assessment shall include the consideration of the number of incidents, injuries to the parties involved, successes and problems encountered, the overall operation of the Marcus alert system and community care teams, and recommendations for any actions necessary to strengthen the effectiveness of the Marcus alert system and community care team response in achieving the goals of the Marcus alert system. The report shall also include a specific plan to phase in a Marcus alert system and community care team in each remaining geographical area served by a community services board or behavioral health authority as required in subsection E.

E. The Department shall establish additional Marcus alert systems and community care teams in geographical areas served by a community services board or behavioral health authority by July 1, 2024, July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026. No later than July 1, 2026, all community services board and behavioral health authority geographical areas shall have established a Marcus alert system that uses a community care team.

**§ 37.2-321. Community care team training.**

The Department, in consultation with the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, and law-enforcement, brain injury, and mental health stakeholders, shall develop a training program for all persons involved in the Marcus alert system and community care teams, and all team members and dispatchers shall receive this training.

**§ 37.2-322. Community care team protocol.**

A. Each community care team shall develop a protocol that permits the community care team to release a person whose behaviors are consistent with mental illness or substance abuse problems, or both, whom they encounter in crisis situations when the community care team has determined the person is sufficiently stable and to refer him for emergency treatment services. Consideration shall be given to the particular needs of non-English-speaking persons when developing such protocol and establishing each community care team.

B. Community care teams shall only be armed with nonlethal weapons and shall only use nonlethal force. Community care team members shall not wear uniforms used by law-enforcement officers and shall not drive or operate law-enforcement-marked motor vehicles when responding to a call for service. All law-enforcement members who are part of a community care team shall wear and use and keep free from obstruction a body-worn camera system whenever such community care team is responding to a call for service. Community care teams shall not be housed in any law-enforcement facility, jail, or detention center.

**§ 37.2-323. Community care team assessment.**

The Department and the Department of Criminal Justice Services shall assess and report on the impact and effectiveness of the community care teams in meeting their goals. The assessment shall include the consideration of the number of incidents, injuries to the parties involved, successes and problems encountered, the overall operation of the Marcus alert system and community care teams, and recommendations for improvement. After submitting the initial interim and final report pursuant to subsection D of § 37.2-320, the Department and the Department of Criminal Justice Services shall report annually to the Joint Commission on Health Care by November 15 of each year.

**2. That the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department of Criminal Justice Services shall coordinate a public service campaign to run from July 1, 2021, until January 1, 2022, announcing the development and establishment of community care teams and mental health awareness response and community understanding services (Marcus) alert systems in localities and areas throughout the Commonwealth.**

**3. That this act shall be referred to as the Marcus-David Peters Act.**