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## SENATE BILL NO. 763

Senate Amendments in [ ] — January 24, 1997

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 18.2-283.2, relating to possessing a dangerous weapon in a publicly owned community or recreation center; penalty.

Patrons—Gartlan, Howell, Saslaw, Ticer, Waddell and Woods; Delegates: Albo, Almand, Connally, Hull, Keating, Lovelace, Plum, Puller, Rust, Scott, Van Landingham and Watts

Referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 18.2-283.2 as follows:**

§ 18.2-283.2. Possessing dangerous weapons in a publicly owned community or recreation center; penalty.

Notwithstanding the provisions of § 15.1-29.15, the governing body of any county that has adopted the urban county executive form of government may, by ordinance, make it unlawful for any person to possess a dangerous weapon upon the property, including buildings and grounds of any publicly owned or publicly operated recreation or community center facility. [ The ordinance shall provide for appropriate exemptions from this section for activities including but not limited to theatrical and historical events and other events and activities for which a permit from the governing body is required. ] Notice of any such ordinance shall be posted at each public entrance to each such county facility that is within the scope of the ordinance. A violation of such an ordinance shall be punishable as no more than a Class 1 misdemeanor, and upon conviction, any weapon seized shall be disposed of in accordance with § 15.1-133.01.

For the purposes of this section, the term "dangerous weapon" means: (i) any gun or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind; (ii) any frame, receiver, muffler, silencer, missile, projectile or ammunition designed for use with any gun or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind; or (iii) any explosive, taser, stun weapon, knife or other weapon specified in subsection A of § 18.2-308, except that this term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2.5 inches in length.

The exemptions set out in § 18.2-308 shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the provisions of any ordinance adopted pursuant to this section. No such ordinance shall apply to the following individuals who are carrying dangerous weapons while conducting official business: (i) any law-enforcement officer, as defined by § 9-169; (ii) any game warden, animal warden or deputy animal warden; (iii) any special police officer; [ ~~or (iv) any magistrate, court officer or judge~~ (iv) any magistrate, court officer or judge or (v) any person who holds a valid concealed weapons permit ] .

ENGROSSED

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