

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1998 RECONVENED SESSION

## CHAPTER 798

*An Act to amend and reenact § 53.1-32 of the Code of Virginia, relating to treatment and control of prisoners.*

[S 503]

Approved April 22, 1998

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

**1. That § 53.1-32 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 53.1-32. Treatment and control of prisoners; recreation; religious services.

A. It shall be the general purpose of the state correctional facilities to provide proper employment, training and education in accordance with Chapter 18 (§ 22.1-339 et seq.) of Title 22.1 and § 53.1-32.1, medical and mental health care and treatment, discipline and control of prisoners committed or transferred thereto. The health service program established to provide medical services to prisoners shall provide for appropriate means by which prisoners receiving nonemergency medical services may pay fees based upon a portion of the cost of such services. In no event shall any prisoner be denied medically necessary service due to his inability to pay. The Board shall promulgate regulations governing such a program.

B. The Director shall provide a program of recreation for prisoners. The Director may establish, with consultation from the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, a comprehensive substance abuse treatment program which may include utilization of acupuncture and other treatment modalities, and may make such program available to any prisoner requiring the services provided by the program.

C. The Director *or his designee who shall be a state employee* is authorized to make arrangements for religious services for prisoners at times as he may deem appropriate. *When such arrangements are made pursuant to a contract or memorandum of understanding, the final authority for such arrangements shall reside with the Director or his designee.*