

1998 SESSION

INTRODUCED

981890297

HOUSE BILL NO. 56

Offered January 14, 1998

Prefiled December 29, 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—Hull, Almand, Brink, Keating, Puller, Scott, Van Landingham and Watts; Senators: Howell and Whipple

Referred to Committee on Militia and Police

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 § 15.2-915, 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 for activities including but not limited to educational, instructional, theatrical and historical events and other events and activities for which permission 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 § 15.2-1721.

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.

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: (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; (iv) any magistrate, court officer or judge.

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