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SENATE BILL NO. 503

Senate Amendments in [] — February 10, 1998

A BILL to amend and reenact § 53.1-32 of the Code of Virginia, relating to treatment and control of prisoners.

Patron—Newman

Referred to the Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services

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 is authorized to make arrangements for religious services for prisoners at times as he may deem appropriate. *The Director or his designee, who shall be a state employee, shall determine who shall enter state correctional facilities to provide religious services and the time and location of such services. [At no time shall this responsibility be delegated by contract or memorandum of understanding to any individual or group not employed by the state. At any time that this duty is delegated by contract or memorandum of understanding to any individual or group not employed by the state, the final authority for arrangements for religious services shall reside with the Director or his designee who must be a state employee.]*

ENGROSSED

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