

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 58.1-1017 of the Code of Virginia, relating to unstamped cigarettes;*
3 *sale, transport, possession, etc.; penalties.*

[S 1018]

Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 58.1-1017 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 58.1-1017. Sale, purchase, possession, etc., of cigarettes for purpose of evading tax; penalties.**

9 A. Any person, except as otherwise provided by law, who sells, purchases, transports, receives, or
10 possesses unstamped cigarettes shall be required to pay any tax owed pursuant to this chapter. In
11 addition, such person shall be required to pay a civil penalty of (i) \$2.50 per pack, up to \$500, for the
12 first violation by a legal entity within a 36-month period; (ii) \$5 per pack, up to \$1,000, for the second
13 violation by the legal entity within a 36-month period; and (iii) \$10 per pack, up to \$50,000, for the
14 third and any subsequent violation by the legal entity within a 36-month period, to be assessed and
15 collected by the Department as other taxes are collected. In addition, where willful intent exists to
16 defraud the Commonwealth of the tax levied under this chapter, such person shall be required to pay a
17 civil penalty of \$25 per pack, up to \$250,000.

18 B. It shall be unlawful for any person, except as otherwise provided by law, to sell, purchase,
19 transport, receive or possess less than ~~3,000~~ 500 packages of cigarettes unless the same have been
20 stamped in the manner required by law, for the purpose of evading the payment of the taxes on such
21 products. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a Class 2
22 misdemeanor.

23 C. It shall be unlawful for any person, except as otherwise provided by law, to sell, purchase,
24 transport, receive or possess ~~3,000~~ 500 or more packages of cigarettes unless the same have been
25 stamped in the manner required by law, for the purpose of evading the payment of the taxes on such
26 products. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection shall be guilty of a Class 6 felony.

27 D. If a person who (i) has not been issued a permit to affix revenue stamps by the Department, as
28 provided in § 58.1-1011, or (ii) is not a retail dealer who has lawfully purchased cigarettes from such
29 permit holder has in his possession within the Commonwealth more than 30 packages of unstamped
30 cigarettes, such possession shall be presumed to be for the purpose of evading the payment of the taxes
31 due thereon. No civil penalty shall be imposed under this section for any unstamped cigarettes if a civil
32 penalty under § 58.1-1013 has been paid for such unstamped cigarettes.

33 **2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or**
34 **commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot**
35 **be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter**
36 **3 of the Acts of Assembly of 2012, Special Session I, requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing**
37 **Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated**
38 **amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the**
39 **custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.**

ENROLLED

SB1018ER