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SENATE BILL NO. 1143

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health
on February 5, 2015)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Garrett)

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-48.08 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the establishment of quarantine zones.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 32.1-48.08 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 32.1-48.08. Declaration of quarantine.

A. The ~~State Health~~ Governor, at the request of the Commissioner, may declare a quarantine of any person or persons or any affected area after he finds that the quarantine is the necessary means to contain a communicable disease of public health threat as defined in § 32.1-48.06 to which such person or persons or the people of an affected area have been or may have been exposed and thus may become infected.

B. The ~~State Health~~ Commissioner shall record his findings and any information on which he has relied in making the finding required for quarantine pursuant to subsection A. The ~~State Health~~ Commissioner's record of findings concerning any communicable disease of public health threat shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed in accordance with subdivision 17 of § 2.2-3705.5.

C. The ~~State Health~~ Commissioner may order the quarantined person or persons to remain in their residences, to remain in another place where they are present, or to report to a place or places designated by the ~~State Health~~ Commissioner for the duration of their quarantine. An electronic device may be used to enforce any such quarantine. The Commissioner's order of quarantine shall be for a duration consistent with the known incubation period for such disease or, if the incubation period is unknown, for a period anticipated as being consistent with the incubation period for other similar infectious agents.

D. *Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Governor is authorized to establish quarantine zones at any time when an individual enters the Commonwealth where his point of origin is a foreign country in which a communicable disease of public health threat, including the Ebola virus, has caused the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to issue a Level 3 Travel Health Notice. The Governor is authorized to direct the Commissioner to declare a quarantine of any individual arriving from such country who has been exposed or is reasonably believed to have been exposed to such disease. A person held in a quarantine zone pursuant to this subsection shall remain in the quarantine zone for a duration consistent with the known incubation period for such disease or, if the incubation period is unknown, for a period anticipated as being consistent with the incubation period for other similar infectious agents.*