

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-2970.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to authority to consent to*
3 *physical evidence recovery kit examination; minors.*

4 [S 248]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 54.1-2970.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 54.1-2970.1. Individual incapable of making informed decision; procedure for physical**
9 **evidence recovery kit examination; consent by minors.**10 A. A licensed physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or registered nurse may perform a
11 physical evidence recovery kit examination for a person who is believed to be the victim of a sexual
12 assault and who is incapable of making an informed decision regarding consent to such examination
13 when:14 1. There is a need to conduct the examination before the victim is likely to be able to make an
15 informed decision in order to preserve physical evidence of the alleged sexual assault from degradation;16 2. No legally authorized representative or other person authorized to consent to medical treatment on
17 the individual's behalf is reasonably available to provide consent within the time necessary to preserve
18 physical evidence of the alleged sexual assault; and19 3. A capacity reviewer, as defined in § 54.1-2982, provides written certification that, based upon a
20 personal examination of the individual, the individual is incapable of making an informed decision
21 regarding the physical evidence recovery kit examination and that, given the totality of the
22 circumstances, the examination should be performed. The capacity reviewer who provides such written
23 certification shall not be otherwise currently involved in the treatment of the person assessed, unless an
24 independent capacity reviewer is not reasonably available.25 *A1. For purposes of this section, if a parent or guardian of a minor refuses to consent to a physical*
26 *evidence recovery kit examination of the minor, the minor may consent.*27 B. Any physical evidence recovery kit examination performed pursuant to this section shall be
28 performed in accordance with the requirements of §§ 19.2-11.2 and 19.2-165.1 and shall protect the
29 alleged victim's identity.30 C. A licensed physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or registered nurse who exercises due
31 care under the provisions of this act shall not be liable for any act or omission related to performance of
32 an examination in accordance with this section.