

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-321.1 and 19.2-321.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to delayed*
 3 *appeals in criminal cases; assignments of error dismissed in part.*

4 [S 853]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That §§ 19.2-321.1 and 19.2-321.2 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as**
 8 **follows:**

9 **§ 19.2-321.1. Motion in the Court of Appeals for delayed appeal in criminal cases.**

10 A. Filing and content of motion. When, due to the error, neglect, or fault of counsel representing the
 11 appellant, or of the court reporter, or of the circuit court or an officer or employee thereof, an appeal, *in*
 12 *whole or in part*, in a criminal case has (i) never been initiated; (ii) been dismissed for failure to adhere
 13 to proper form, procedures, or time limits in the perfection of the appeal; or (iii) been denied or the
 14 conviction has been affirmed, for failure to file or timely file the indispensable transcript or written
 15 statement of facts as required by law or by the Rules of ~~the~~ Supreme Court; then a motion for leave to
 16 pursue a delayed appeal may be filed in the Court of Appeals within six months after the appeal has
 17 been dismissed or denied, the conviction has been affirmed, or the circuit court judgment sought to be
 18 appealed has become final, whichever is later. Such motion shall identify the circuit court and the style,
 19 date, and circuit court record number of the judgment sought to be appealed, and, if one was assigned in
 20 a prior attempt to appeal the judgment, shall give the Court of Appeals record number in that
 21 proceeding, and shall set forth the specific facts establishing the said error, neglect, or fault. If the error,
 22 neglect, or fault is alleged to be that of an attorney representing the appellant, the motion shall be
 23 accompanied by the affidavit of the attorney whose error, neglect, or fault is alleged, verifying the
 24 specific facts alleged in the motion, and certifying that the appellant is not personally responsible, in
 25 whole or in part, for the error, neglect, or fault causing loss of the original opportunity for appeal.

26 B. Service, response, and disposition. Such motion shall be served on the attorney for the
 27 Commonwealth or, if a petition for appeal was granted in the original attempt to appeal, upon the
 28 Attorney General, in accordance with the Rules of ~~the~~ Supreme Court. If the Commonwealth disputes
 29 the facts alleged in the motion, or contends that those facts do not entitle the appellant to a delayed
 30 appeal under this section, the motion shall be denied without prejudice to the appellant's right to seek a
 31 delayed appeal by means of petition for a writ of habeas corpus. Otherwise, the Court of Appeals shall,
 32 if the motion meets the requirements of this section, grant appellant leave to initiate or re-initiate pursuit
 33 of the appeal.

34 C. Time limits when motion granted. If the motion is granted, all computations of time under the
 35 Rules of ~~the~~ Supreme Court shall run from the date of the order of the Court of Appeals granting the
 36 motion, or if the appellant has been determined to be indigent, from the date of the order by the circuit
 37 court appointing counsel to represent the appellant in the delayed appeal, whichever is later.

38 D. Applicability. The provisions of this section shall not apply to cases in which the appellant is
 39 responsible, in whole or in part, for the error, neglect, or fault causing loss of the original opportunity
 40 for appeal, nor shall it apply in cases where the claim of error, neglect, or fault has already been alleged
 41 and rejected in a prior judicial proceeding.

42 **§ 19.2-321.2. Motion in the Supreme Court for delayed appeal in criminal cases.**

43 A. Filing and content of motion. When, due to the error, neglect, or fault of counsel representing the
 44 appellant, or of the court reporter, or of the Court of Appeals or the circuit court or an officer or
 45 employee of either, an appeal from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court in a criminal case has (i)
 46 never been initiated; (ii) been dismissed for failure to adhere to proper form, procedures, or time limits
 47 in the perfection of the appeal; (iii) *been dismissed in part because at least one assignments of error*
 48 *contained in the petition for appeal did not adhere to proper form or procedures;* or ~~(iii)~~ (iv) been
 49 denied or the conviction has been affirmed, for failure to file or timely file the indispensable transcript
 50 or written statement of facts as required by law or by the Rules of ~~the~~ Supreme Court; then a motion
 51 for leave to pursue a delayed appeal may be filed in the Supreme Court within six months after the
 52 appeal has been dismissed or denied, the conviction has been affirmed, or the Court of Appeals
 53 judgment sought to be appealed has become final, whichever is later. Such motion shall identify by the
 54 style, date, and Court of Appeals record number of the judgment sought to be appealed, and, if one was
 55 assigned in a prior attempt to appeal the judgment to the Supreme Court, shall give the record number
 56 assigned in the Supreme Court in that proceeding, and shall set forth the specific facts establishing the

57 said error, neglect, or fault. If the error, neglect, or fault is alleged to be that of an attorney representing
58 the appellant, the motion shall be accompanied by the affidavit of the attorney whose error, neglect, or
59 fault is alleged, verifying the specific facts alleged in the motion, and certifying that the appellant is not
60 personally responsible, in whole or in part, for the error, neglect, or fault causing loss of the original
61 opportunity for appeal.

62 B. Service, response, and disposition. Such motion shall be served on the attorney for the
63 Commonwealth or, if a petition for appeal was granted in the Court of Appeals or in the Supreme Court
64 in the original attempt to appeal, upon the Attorney General, in accordance with Rule 5:4 of the
65 Supreme Court. If the Commonwealth disputes the facts alleged in the motion, or contends that those
66 facts do not entitle the appellant to a delayed appeal under this section, the motion shall be denied
67 without prejudice to the appellant's right to seek a delayed appeal by means of petition for a writ of
68 habeas corpus. Otherwise, the Supreme Court shall, if the motion meets the requirements of this section,
69 grant appellant leave to initiate or re-initiate pursuit of the appeal from the Court of Appeals to the
70 Supreme Court.

71 C. Time limits when motion granted. If the motion is granted, all computations of time under the
72 Rules of the Supreme Court shall run from the date of the order of the Supreme Court granting the
73 motion, or if the appellant has been determined to be indigent, from the date of the order by the circuit
74 court appointing counsel to represent the appellant in the delayed appeal, whichever is later.

75 D. Applicability. The provisions of this section shall not apply to cases in which the appellant is
76 responsible, in whole or in part, for the error, neglect, or fault causing loss of the original opportunity
77 for appeal, nor shall it apply in cases where the claim of error, neglect, or fault has already been alleged
78 and rejected in a prior judicial proceeding, nor shall it apply in cases in which a sentence of death has
79 been imposed.