

# 2020 SPECIAL SESSION I

## SENATE SUBSTITUTE

20201198D

### HOUSE BILL NO. 5043

#### AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
on September 16, 2020)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Bourne)

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 9.1-102 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 1 of Title 9.1 an article numbered 16, consisting of a section numbered 9.1-193, and by adding a section numbered 37.2-311.1, relating to response to mental health crises; establishment of the mental health awareness response and community understanding services (Marcus) alert system.*

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

**1. That § 9.1-102 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 1 of Title 9.1 an article numbered 16, consisting of a section numbered 9.1-193, and by adding a section numbered 37.2-311.1 as follows:**

**§ 9.1-102. Powers and duties of the Board and the Department.**

The Department, under the direction of the Board, which shall be the policy-making body for carrying out the duties and powers hereunder, shall have the power and duty to:

1. Adopt regulations, pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), for the administration of this chapter including the authority to require the submission of reports and information by law-enforcement officers within the Commonwealth. Any proposed regulations concerning the privacy, confidentiality, and security of criminal justice information shall be submitted for review and comment to any board, commission, or committee or other body which may be established by the General Assembly to regulate the privacy, confidentiality, and security of information collected and maintained by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof;

2. Establish compulsory minimum training standards subsequent to employment as a law-enforcement officer in (i) permanent positions, and (ii) temporary or probationary status, and establish the time required for completion of such training;

3. Establish minimum training standards and qualifications for certification and recertification for law-enforcement officers serving as field training officers;

4. Establish compulsory minimum curriculum requirements for in-service and advanced courses and programs for schools, whether located in or outside the Commonwealth, which are operated for the specific purpose of training law-enforcement officers;

5. Establish (i) compulsory minimum training standards for law-enforcement officers who utilize radar or an electrical or microcomputer device to measure the speed of motor vehicles as provided in § 46.2-882 and establish the time required for completion of the training and (ii) compulsory minimum qualifications for certification and recertification of instructors who provide such training;

6. [Repealed];

7. Establish compulsory minimum entry-level, in-service and advanced training standards for those persons designated to provide courthouse and courtroom security pursuant to the provisions of § 53.1-120, and to establish the time required for completion of such training;

8. Establish compulsory minimum entry-level, in-service and advanced training standards for deputy sheriffs designated to serve process pursuant to the provisions of § 8.01-293, and establish the time required for the completion of such training;

9. Establish compulsory minimum entry-level, in-service, and advanced training standards, as well as the time required for completion of such training, for persons employed as deputy sheriffs and jail officers by local criminal justice agencies and correctional officers employed by the Department of Corrections under the provisions of Title 53.1. For correctional officers employed by the Department of Corrections, such standards shall include training on the general care of pregnant women, the impact of restraints on pregnant inmates and fetuses, the impact of being placed in restrictive housing or solitary confinement on pregnant inmates, and the impact of body cavity searches on pregnant inmates;

10. Establish compulsory minimum training standards for all dispatchers employed by or in any local or state government agency, whose duties include the dispatching of law-enforcement personnel. Such training standards shall apply only to dispatchers hired on or after July 1, 1988;

11. Establish compulsory minimum training standards for all auxiliary police officers employed by or in any local or state government agency. Such training shall be graduated and based on the type of duties to be performed by the auxiliary police officers. Such training standards shall not apply to auxiliary police officers exempt pursuant to § 15.2-1731;

12. Consult and cooperate with counties, municipalities, agencies of the Commonwealth, other state and federal governmental agencies, and institutions of higher education within or outside the

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

HB5043S1

10/14/21 15:25

60 Commonwealth, concerning the development of police training schools and programs or courses of  
61 instruction;

62 13. Approve institutions, curricula and facilities, whether located in or outside the Commonwealth,  
63 for school operation for the specific purpose of training law-enforcement officers; but this shall not  
64 prevent the holding of any such school whether approved or not;

65 14. Establish and maintain police training programs through such agencies and institutions as the  
66 Board deems appropriate;

67 15. Establish compulsory minimum qualifications of certification and recertification for instructors in  
68 criminal justice training schools approved by the Department;

69 16. Conduct and stimulate research by public and private agencies which shall be designed to  
70 improve police administration and law enforcement;

71 17. Make recommendations concerning any matter within its purview pursuant to this chapter;

72 18. Coordinate its activities with those of any interstate system for the exchange of criminal history  
73 record information, nominate one or more of its members to serve upon the council or committee of any  
74 such system, and participate when and as deemed appropriate in any such system's activities and  
75 programs;

76 19. Conduct inquiries and investigations it deems appropriate to carry out its functions under this  
77 chapter and, in conducting such inquiries and investigations, may require any criminal justice agency to  
78 submit information, reports, and statistical data with respect to its policy and operation of information  
79 systems or with respect to its collection, storage, dissemination, and usage of criminal history record  
80 information and correctional status information, and such criminal justice agencies shall submit such  
81 information, reports, and data as are reasonably required;

82 20. Conduct audits as required by § 9.1-131;

83 21. Conduct a continuing study and review of questions of individual privacy and confidentiality of  
84 criminal history record information and correctional status information;

85 22. Advise criminal justice agencies and initiate educational programs for such agencies with respect  
86 to matters of privacy, confidentiality, and security as they pertain to criminal history record information  
87 and correctional status information;

88 23. Maintain a liaison with any board, commission, committee, or other body which may be  
89 established by law, executive order, or resolution to regulate the privacy and security of information  
90 collected by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof;

91 24. Adopt regulations establishing guidelines and standards for the collection, storage, and  
92 dissemination of criminal history record information and correctional status information, and the privacy,  
93 confidentiality, and security thereof necessary to implement state and federal statutes, regulations, and  
94 court orders;

95 25. Operate a statewide criminal justice research center, which shall maintain an integrated criminal  
96 justice information system, produce reports, provide technical assistance to state and local criminal  
97 justice data system users, and provide analysis and interpretation of criminal justice statistical  
98 information;

99 26. Develop a comprehensive, statewide, long-range plan for strengthening and improving law  
100 enforcement and the administration of criminal justice throughout the Commonwealth, and periodically  
101 update that plan;

102 27. Cooperate with, and advise and assist, all agencies, departments, boards and institutions of the  
103 Commonwealth, and units of general local government, or combinations thereof, including planning  
104 district commissions, in planning, developing, and administering programs, projects, comprehensive  
105 plans, and other activities for improving law enforcement and the administration of criminal justice  
106 throughout the Commonwealth, including allocating and subgranting funds for these purposes;

107 28. Define, develop, organize, encourage, conduct, coordinate, and administer programs, projects and  
108 activities for the Commonwealth and units of general local government, or combinations thereof, in the  
109 Commonwealth, designed to strengthen and improve law enforcement and the administration of criminal  
110 justice at every level throughout the Commonwealth;

111 29. Review and evaluate programs, projects, and activities, and recommend, where necessary,  
112 revisions or alterations to such programs, projects, and activities for the purpose of improving law  
113 enforcement and the administration of criminal justice;

114 30. Coordinate the activities and projects of the state departments, agencies, and boards of the  
115 Commonwealth and of the units of general local government, or combination thereof, including planning  
116 district commissions, relating to the preparation, adoption, administration, and implementation of  
117 comprehensive plans to strengthen and improve law enforcement and the administration of criminal  
118 justice;

119 31. Do all things necessary on behalf of the Commonwealth and its units of general local  
120 government, to determine and secure benefits available under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe  
121 Streets Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-351, 82 Stat. 197), as amended, and under any other federal acts and

programs for strengthening and improving law enforcement, the administration of criminal justice, and delinquency prevention and control;

32. Receive, administer, and expend all funds and other assistance available to the Board and the Department for carrying out the purposes of this chapter and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended;

33. Apply for and accept grants from the United States government or any other source in carrying out the purposes of this chapter and accept any and all donations both real and personal, and grants of money from any governmental unit or public agency, or from any institution, person, firm or corporation, and may receive, utilize and dispose of the same. Any arrangements pursuant to this section shall be detailed in the annual report of the Board. Such report shall include the identity of the donor, the nature of the transaction, and the conditions, if any. Any moneys received pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the state treasury to the account of the Department. To these ends, the Board shall have the power to comply with conditions and execute such agreements as may be necessary;

34. Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and execution of its powers under this chapter, including but not limited to, contracts with the United States, units of general local government or combinations thereof, in Virginia or other states, and with agencies and departments of the Commonwealth;

35. Adopt and administer reasonable regulations for the planning and implementation of programs and activities and for the allocation, expenditure and subgranting of funds available to the Commonwealth and to units of general local government, and for carrying out the purposes of this chapter and the powers and duties set forth herein;

36. Certify and decertify law-enforcement officers in accordance with §§ 15.2-1706 and 15.2-1707;

37. Establish training standards and publish and periodically update model policies for law-enforcement personnel in the following subjects:

a. The handling of family abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases, including standards for determining the predominant physical aggressor in accordance with § 19.2-81.3. The Department shall provide technical support and assistance to law-enforcement agencies in carrying out the requirements set forth in subsection A of § 9.1-1301;

b. Communication with and facilitation of the safe return of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease;

c. Sensitivity to and awareness of cultural diversity and the potential for biased policing;

d. Protocols for local and regional sexual assault response teams;

e. Communication of death notifications;

f. The questioning of individuals suspected of driving while intoxicated concerning the physical location of such individual's last consumption of an alcoholic beverage and the communication of such information to the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority;

g. Vehicle patrol duties that embody current best practices for pursuits and for responding to emergency calls;

h. Criminal investigations that embody current best practices for conducting photographic and live lineups;

i. Sensitivity to and awareness of human trafficking offenses and the identification of victims of human trafficking offenses for personnel involved in criminal investigations or assigned to vehicle or street patrol duties; and

j. Missing children, missing adults, and search and rescue protocol;

38. Establish compulsory training standards for basic training and the recertification of law-enforcement officers to ensure sensitivity to and awareness of cultural diversity and the potential for biased policing;

39. Review and evaluate community-policing programs in the Commonwealth, and recommend where necessary statewide operating procedures, guidelines, and standards which strengthen and improve such programs, including sensitivity to and awareness of cultural diversity and the potential for biased policing;

40. Establish a Virginia Law-Enforcement Accreditation Center. The Center may, in cooperation with Virginia law-enforcement agencies, provide technical assistance and administrative support, including staffing, for the establishment of voluntary state law-enforcement accreditation standards. The Center may provide accreditation assistance and training, resource material, and research into methods and procedures that will assist the Virginia law-enforcement community efforts to obtain Virginia accreditation status;

41. Promote community policing philosophy and practice throughout the Commonwealth by providing community policing training and technical assistance statewide to all law-enforcement agencies, community groups, public and private organizations and citizens; developing and distributing innovative policing curricula and training tools on general community policing philosophy and practice

183 and contemporary critical issues facing Virginia communities; serving as a consultant to Virginia  
184 organizations with specific community policing needs; facilitating continued development and  
185 implementation of community policing programs statewide through discussion forums for community  
186 policing leaders, development of law-enforcement instructors; promoting a statewide community policing  
187 initiative; and serving as a statewide information source on the subject of community policing including,  
188 but not limited to periodic newsletters, a website and an accessible lending library;

189 42. Establish, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Virginia State Crime  
190 Commission, compulsory minimum standards for employment and job-entry and in-service training  
191 curricula and certification requirements for school security officers, including school security officers  
192 described in clause (b) of § 22.1-280.2:1, which training and certification shall be administered by the  
193 Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS) pursuant to § 9.1-184. Such training standards  
194 shall be specific to the role and responsibility of school security officers and shall include (i) relevant  
195 state and federal laws; (ii) school and personal liability issues; (iii) security awareness in the school  
196 environment; (iv) mediation and conflict resolution, including de-escalation techniques such as a physical  
197 alternative to restraint; (v) disaster and emergency response; (vi) awareness of cultural diversity and  
198 implicit bias; (vii) working with students with disabilities, mental health needs, substance abuse  
199 disorders, and past traumatic experiences; and (viii) student behavioral dynamics, including child and  
200 adolescent development and brain research. The Department shall establish an advisory committee  
201 consisting of local school board representatives, principals, superintendents, and school security  
202 personnel to assist in the development of the standards and certification requirements in this subdivision.  
203 The Department shall require any school security officer who carries a firearm in the performance of his  
204 duties to provide proof that he has completed a training course provided by a federal, state, or local  
205 law-enforcement agency that includes training in active shooter emergency response, emergency  
206 evacuation procedure, and threat assessment;

207 43. License and regulate property bail bondsmen and surety bail bondsmen in accordance with  
208 Article 11 (§ 9.1-185 et seq.);

209 44. License and regulate bail enforcement agents in accordance with Article 12 (§ 9.1-186 et seq.);

210 45. In conjunction with the Virginia State Police and the State Compensation Board, advise criminal  
211 justice agencies regarding the investigation, registration, and dissemination of information requirements  
212 as they pertain to the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry Act (§ 9.1-900 et seq.);

213 46. Establish minimum standards for (i) employment, (ii) job-entry and in-service training curricula,  
214 and (iii) certification requirements for campus security officers. Such training standards shall include, but  
215 not be limited to, the role and responsibility of campus security officers, relevant state and federal laws,  
216 school and personal liability issues, security awareness in the campus environment, and disaster and  
217 emergency response. The Department shall provide technical support and assistance to campus police  
218 departments and campus security departments on the establishment and implementation of policies and  
219 procedures, including but not limited to: the management of such departments, investigatory procedures,  
220 judicial referrals, the establishment and management of databases for campus safety and security  
221 information sharing, and development of uniform record keeping for disciplinary records and statistics,  
222 such as campus crime logs, judicial referrals and Clery Act statistics. The Department shall establish an  
223 advisory committee consisting of college administrators, college police chiefs, college security  
224 department chiefs, and local law-enforcement officials to assist in the development of the standards and  
225 certification requirements and training pursuant to this subdivision;

226 47. Assess and report, in accordance with § 9.1-190, the crisis intervention team programs established  
227 pursuant to § 9.1-187;

228 48. In conjunction with the Office of the Attorney General, advise law-enforcement agencies and  
229 attorneys for the Commonwealth regarding the identification, investigation, and prosecution of human  
230 trafficking offenses using the common law and existing criminal statutes in the Code of Virginia;

231 49. Register tow truck drivers in accordance with § 46.2-116 and carry out the provisions of  
232 § 46.2-117;

233 50. Administer the activities of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional  
234 Standards Committee by providing technical assistance and administrative support, including staffing, for  
235 the Committee;

236 51. In accordance with § 9.1-102.1, design and approve the issuance of photo-identification cards to  
237 private security services registrants registered pursuant to Article 4 (§ 9.1-138 et seq.);

238 52. In consultation with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and the Virginia  
239 Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, develop multidisciplinary curricula on  
240 trauma-informed sexual assault investigation;

241 53. In consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, develop a  
242 model addiction recovery program that may be administered by sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, jail officers,  
243 administrators, or superintendents in any local or regional jail. Such program shall be based on any  
244 existing addiction recovery programs that are being administered by any local or regional jails in the

Commonwealth. Participation in the model addiction recovery program shall be voluntary, and such program may address aspects of the recovery process, including medical and clinical recovery, peer-to-peer support, availability of mental health resources, family dynamics, and aftercare aspects of the recovery process;

54. Establish compulsory minimum training standards for certification and recertification of law-enforcement officers serving as school resource officers. Such training shall be specific to the role and responsibility of a law-enforcement officer working with students in a school environment and shall include (i) relevant state and federal laws; (ii) school and personal liability issues; (iii) security awareness in the school environment; (iv) mediation and conflict resolution, including de-escalation techniques; (v) disaster and emergency response; (vi) awareness of cultural diversity and implicit bias; (vii) working with students with disabilities, mental health needs, substance abuse disorders, or past traumatic experiences; and (viii) student behavioral dynamics, including current child and adolescent development and brain research;

55. Establish a model policy for the operation of body-worn camera systems as defined in § 15.2-1723.1 that also addresses the storage and maintenance of body-worn camera system records;

56. Establish compulsory minimum training standards for detector canine handlers employed by the Department of Corrections, standards for the training and retention of detector canines used by the Department of Corrections, and a central database on the performance and effectiveness of such detector canines that requires the Department of Corrections to submit comprehensive information on each canine handler and detector canine, including the number and types of calls and searches, substances searched for and whether or not detected, and the number of false positives, false negatives, true positives, and true negatives;

57. Establish compulsory training standards for basic training of law-enforcement officers for recognizing and managing stress, self-care techniques, and resiliency; ~~and~~

58. *Advise and assist the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and support local law-enforcement cooperation, with the development and implementation of the Marcus alert system, as defined in § 37.2-311.1, including the establishment of local protocols for law-enforcement participation in the Marcus alert system pursuant to § 9.1-193 and for reporting requirements pursuant to §§ 9.1-193 and 37.2-311.1; and*

59. Perform such other acts as may be necessary or convenient for the effective performance of its duties.

#### Article 16.

*Mental Health Awareness Response and Community Understanding Services (Marcus) Alert System.*

**§ 9.1-193. Mental health awareness response and community understanding services (Marcus) alert system; law-enforcement protocols.**

A. As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Area" means a combination of one or more localities or institutions of higher education contained therein that may have law-enforcement officers as defined in § 9.1-101.

"Body-worn camera system" means the same as that term is defined in § 15.2-1723.1.

"Community care team" means a group of mental health service providers working with registered peer recovery specialists and law-enforcement officers as a team, with the mental health service providers leading such team, to help stabilize individuals in crisis situations. In addition to serving as a co-response unit, community care teams may, at the discretion of the employing locality, engage in community mental health awareness and services. Community care teams or mobile crisis teams, as defined in § 37.2-311.1, shall respond to crisis situations involving persons whose behaviors are consistent with mental illness or substance abuse, or both, including individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis that is secondary to mental illness, substance abuse, developmental or intellectual disability, brain injury, or any combination thereof.

"Developmental disability" means the same as that term is defined in § 37.2-100.

"Developmental services" means the same as that term is defined in § 37.2-100.

"Mental health awareness response and community understanding services alert system" or "Marcus alert system" means the same as that term is defined in § 37.2-311.1.

"Mental health service provider" means the same as that term is defined in § 54.1-2400.1.

"Mobile crisis response" means the same as that term is defined in § 37.1-311.1.

B. By July 1, 2021, the Department shall develop a written plan outlining (i) the Department's and law-enforcement agencies' roles and engagement with the development of the Marcus alert system; (ii) the Department's role in the development of minimum standards, best practices, and the review and approval of the protocols for law-enforcement participation in the Marcus alert system set forth in subsection C; and (iii) plans for the measurement of progress toward the goals for law-enforcement participation in the Marcus alert system set forth in subsection D.

C. All protocols for law-enforcement participation in the Marcus alert system shall be developed in

coordination with local behavioral health and developmental services stakeholders and approved by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services according to standards developed pursuant to § 37.2-311.1. Such protocols shall provide for a specialized response by law enforcement designed to meet the goals described in this article to ensure that individuals experiencing a mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disability-related behavioral health crisis receive a specialized response when diversion to the comprehensive crisis system is not feasible. Specialized response protocols by law enforcement, in addition to providing appropriate training, shall consider the impact to care that the presence of an officer in uniform or a marked vehicle at a response has and shall mitigate such impact when feasible through the use of plain clothes and unmarked vehicles.

D. The goals of law enforcement participation, including the development of local protocols, in the behavioral health crisis system and Marcus alert system shall be:

1. Ensuring that individuals experiencing behavioral health crises are served by the behavioral health crisis system when considered feasible pursuant to protocols and associated clinical guidance provided pursuant to Title 37.2;

2. Ensuring that local law-enforcement departments and institutions of higher education with law-enforcement officers establish standardized agreements with regional mobile crisis hubs for the provision of law-enforcement backup and specialized response when required for a mobile crisis response;

3. Providing immediate response and services when diversion to the behavioral health crisis system is not feasible with a protocol that meets the minimum standards and strives for the best practices developed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department pursuant to § 37.2-311.1;

4. Affording individuals whose behaviors are consistent with mental illness, substance abuse, intellectual or developmental disabilities, brain injury, or any combination thereof a sense of dignity in crisis situations;

5. Reducing the likelihood of physical confrontation and use of lethal force;

6. Ensuring the use of unobstructed body-worn cameras for the continuous improvement of the response team;

7. Identifying underserved populations in historically economically disadvantaged communities whose behaviors are consistent with mental illness, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, or any combination thereof and ensuring individuals experiencing a mental health crisis, including individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis secondary to mental illness, substance use problem, developmental or intellectual disabilities, brain injury, or any combination thereof, are directed or referred to and provided with appropriate care, including follow-up and wrap-around services to individuals, family members, and caregivers to reduce the likelihood of future crises;

8. Providing support and assistance for mental health service providers and law-enforcement officers;

9. Decreasing the use of arrest and detention of persons whose behaviors are consistent with mental illness, substance abuse, developmental or intellectual disabilities, brain injury, or any combination thereof by providing better access to timely treatment;

10. Providing a therapeutic location or protocol to bring individuals in crisis for assessment that is not a law-enforcement or jail facility;

11. Increasing public recognition and appreciation for the mental health needs of a community;

12. Decreasing injuries during crisis events;

13. Decreasing the need for mental health treatment in jail;

14. Accelerating access to care for individuals in crisis through improved and streamlined referral mechanisms to mental health and developmental services;

15. Improving the notifications made to the comprehensive crisis system concerning an individual experiencing a mental health crisis if the individual poses an immediate public safety threat or threat to self; and

16. Decreasing the use of psychiatric hospitalizations as a treatment for mental health crises.

E. By July 1, 2022, every locality shall be served by a Marcus alert system. In addition to the required protocols for 9-1-1 diversion and serving as backup to mobile crisis or community care team response, every locality shall have established, or be part of an area that has established, protocols for law-enforcement participation in the Marcus alert system that has been approved by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and the Department shall collaborate to ensure that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services maintains purview over best practices to promote a behavioral health response to behavioral health crises whenever possible, or behavioral health response with law-enforcement backup, when necessary, and that the Department maintains purview over requirements associated with decreased use of force and body-worn camera system policies and enforcement of such policies in the protocols.

F. By July 1, 2021, every locality shall establish a database for individuals with a behavioral health illness, mental health illness, developmental or intellectual disability, or brain injury, or the legal guardian or primary caregiver of such individuals, to voluntarily provide the name, address, and relevant identifying or health information for such individuals. Such database shall be made available to the 9-1-1 alert system and the Marcus alert system to provide relevant information for a law-enforcement or behavioral health response to an emergency or crisis, but it shall not be used for any other purpose.

**§ 37.2-311.1. Comprehensive crisis system; Marcus alert system; powers and duties of the Department related to comprehensive mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disability crisis services.**

A. As used in this section, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Community care team" means the same as that term is defined in § 9.1-193.

"Crisis call center" means a call center that provides crisis intervention that meets National Suicide Prevention Lifeline standards for risk assessment and engagement.

"Crisis stabilization center" means a facility providing short-term (under 24 hours) observation and crisis stabilization services to all referrals in a home-like, nonhospital environment.

"Mental health awareness response and community understanding services alert system" or "Marcus alert system" means a set of protocols to (i) initiate a behavioral health response to a behavioral health crisis, including for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis secondary to mental illness, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, or any combination thereof; (ii) divert such individuals to the behavioral health or developmental services system whenever feasible; and (iii) facilitate a specialized response in accordance with § 9.1-193 when diversion is not feasible.

"Mobile crisis response" means the provision of professional, same-day intervention for children or adults who are experiencing crises related to mental illness, substance use disorder, developmental disabilities, or any combination thereof.

"Mobile crisis team" means a team of one or more qualified or licensed mental health professionals.

A "mobile crisis team" may include a peer recovery specialist or a family support partner. A law-enforcement officer shall not be a member of a mobile crisis team.

B. The Department shall have the following duties and responsibilities for crisis services and supports for individuals with mental illness, substance abuse, developmental or intellectual disabilities, or brain injury who are experiencing a crisis related to mental health, substance abuse, or behavioral support needs:

1. The Department shall develop a comprehensive crisis service continuum, with such funds as may be appropriated for such purpose, based on national best practice models and composed of a crisis call center, mobile crisis teams, crisis stabilization centers, and the Marcus alert system.

2. The goals of a comprehensive crisis system shall be to (i) commit to a no-force-first approach to quality improvement in care that is characterized by engagement and collaboration; (ii) create engaging and supportive environments that are as free of barriers as possible, including the elimination of plexiglass from crisis stabilization units and minimal use of barriers between team members and those being served, to support stronger connections; (iii) work to convert those with an involuntary commitment to a voluntary commitment so as to invest individuals in their own recovery; (iv) hire credentialed peers with lived experiences that reflect the characteristics of the community served as much as possible, with attention to common characteristics such as gender, race, primary language, ethnicity, religion, veteran status, and age; (v) develop a leadership-driven, safety-oriented culture committed to dramatically reducing suicide among individuals under care that includes systematically identifying and assessing suicide risk among people receiving care and ensuring every individual has a pathway to care that is both timely and adequate to meet his needs and includes collaborative safety planning and a reduction in access to lethal means; (vi) apply a data-driven quality improvement approach to inform system changes that will lead to improved individual outcomes and better care for those at risk; and (vii) incorporate regular meetings between law enforcement and crisis providers, including emergency medical services and the 9-1-1 dispatch and response system, into the schedule so that these partners can work to continuously improve and ensure safe practices.

3. By July 1, 2021, the Department, in collaboration with the Department of Criminal Justice Services and law-enforcement, mental health, behavioral health, developmental services, emergency management, brain injury, and racial equity stakeholders, shall develop a written plan for the development of a Marcus alert system. Such plan shall include (i) protocols to divert calls from the 9-1-1 dispatch and response system to a crisis call center for risk assessment and engagement, including assessment for mobile crisis team dispatch; (ii) protocols for local law-enforcement agencies to enter into memorandums of agreement with a regional mobile crisis hub regarding requests for law-enforcement backup during a mobile crisis or community care team response; and (iii) development of minimum standards, best practices, and a system for the review and approval of protocols for

429 law-enforcement participation in the Marcus alert system set forth in § 9.1-193.

430 4. By December 1, 2021, the Department, in consultation with the Department of Criminal Justice  
431 Services and the stakeholders identified in subdivision 3, shall establish best-practice guidelines for  
432 mobile crisis teams in the Commonwealth and develop training requirements for call center staff, mobile  
433 crisis teams, crisis stabilization center clinical staff, and Marcus alert system users.

434 5. The Department shall assess and report on the impact and effectiveness of the comprehensive  
435 crisis system in meeting its goals. The assessment shall include the number of calls to the crisis call  
436 center, number of mobile crisis responses, number of crisis responses that involved law-enforcement  
437 backup, and overall function of the comprehensive crisis system. A portion of the report, focused on the  
438 function of the Marcus alert system and local protocols for law-enforcement participation in the Marcus  
439 alert system, shall be written in collaboration with the Department of Criminal Justice Services and  
440 shall include the number and description of approved local programs and how the programs interface  
441 with the mobile crisis hubs; the number of crisis incidents and injuries to any parties involved; a  
442 description of successes and problems encountered; and an analysis of the overall operation of any  
443 local protocols or programs, including any disparities in response and outcomes by race and ethnicity  
444 of individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis and recommendations for improvement of the  
445 programs. The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Criminal Justice Services, shall (i)  
446 submit a report to the Joint Commission on Health Care outlining progress toward the assessment of  
447 these factors and any assessment items that have begun collection by November 15, 2021, and (ii)  
448 submit a comprehensive report to the Joint Commission on Health Care by November 15 of 2022, 2023,  
449 and 2024.

450 2. That this act shall be referred to as the Marcus-David Peters Act.