

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2 a section*
3 *numbered 18.2-37.1 and by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2 a section numbered*
4 *18.2-57.5, relating to homicides and assaults and bodily woundings; certain matters not to constitute*
5 *defenses.*

6 [H 2132]

7 Approved

8 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

9 1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2 a
10 section numbered 18.2-37.1 and by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2 a section
11 numbered 18.2-57.5 as follows:

12 § 18.2-37.1. *Certain matters not to constitute defenses.*

13 A. Another person's actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation is not in
14 and of itself, or together with an oral solicitation, a defense to any charge of capital murder, murder in
15 the first degree, murder in the second degree, or voluntary manslaughter and is not in and of itself, or
16 together with an oral solicitation, provocation negating or excluding malice as an element of murder.

17 B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a defendant from exercising his
18 constitutionally protected rights, including his right to call for evidence in his favor that is relevant and
19 otherwise admissible in a criminal prosecution.

20 § 18.2-57.5. *Certain matters not to constitute defenses.*

21 A. Another person's actual or perceived sex, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation is not in
22 and of itself, or together with an oral solicitation, a defense to any charge brought under this article.

23 B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a defendant from exercising his
24 constitutionally protected rights, including his right to call for evidence in his favor that is relevant and
25 otherwise admissible in a criminal prosecution.

26 2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or
27 commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the
28 necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult
29 correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 1289 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020 requires the
30 Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant
31 to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot
32 be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

ENROLLED

HB2132ER