

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2022 SESSION

CHAPTER 277

An Act to amend and reenact § 53.1-127 of the Code of Virginia, relating to local correctional facilities; entry privileges.

[S 673]

Approved April 8, 2022

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 53.1-127 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 53.1-127. Who may enter interior of local correctional facilities; searches of those entering.

A. Members of the local governing bodies that participate in the funding of a local correctional facility may go into the interior of that facility. ~~Agents~~ *The Governor, members of the General Assembly, and agents* of the Board may go into the interior of any local correctional facility. In addition, Department of Corrections staff and state and local health department staff shall, in the performance of their duties, have access to the interior of any local correctional facility subject to the standards promulgated pursuant to subsections A and B of § 53.1-68. Attorneys shall be permitted in the interior of a local correctional facility to confer with prisoners who are their clients and with prisoners who are witnesses in cases in which they are involved. Except for the announced or unannounced inspections authorized pursuant to subsections A and B of § 53.1-68 or a review conducted pursuant to § 53.1-69.1, the sheriff, jail administrator, or other person in charge of the facility shall prescribe the time and conditions under which attorneys and other persons may enter the local correctional facility for which he is responsible.

B. Any person seeking to enter the interior of any local correctional facility shall be subject to a search of his person and effects. Such search shall be performed in a manner reasonable under the circumstances and may be a condition precedent to entering a local correctional facility.