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HOUSE BILL NO. 758

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 11, 2022

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-303, 19.2-303.1, and 19.2-306 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal § 19.2-306.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to probation, revocation, and suspension of sentence; penalty.

Patrons—Adams, L.R., Anderson, Avoli, Ballard, Bell, Brewer, Durant, Edmunds, Fowler, Head, Hodges, LaRock, Leftwich, March, Ransone, Runion, Tata, Walker, Webert, Wiley and Williams

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 19.2-303, 19.2-303.1, and 19.2-306 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 19.2-303. Suspension or modification of sentence; probation; taking of fingerprints and blood, saliva, or tissue sample as condition of probation.

After conviction, whether with or without jury, the court may suspend imposition of sentence or suspend the sentence in whole or part and in addition may place the defendant on probation under such conditions as the court shall determine, including monitoring by a GPS (Global Positioning System) tracking device, or other similar device, or may, as a condition of a suspended sentence, require the defendant to make at least partial restitution to the aggrieved party or parties for damages or loss caused by the offense for which convicted, or to perform community service, or both, under terms and conditions which shall be entered in writing by the court. The court may fix the period of probation for up to the statutory maximum period for which the defendant might originally have been sentenced to be imprisoned *for any felony offense and up to five years for any offense punishable as a Class 1 or Class 2 misdemeanor*. Any period of supervised probation *ordered pursuant to this section* shall not exceed five years from the release of the defendant from any active period of incarceration. The limitation on the period of probation *or supervised probation* shall not apply to the extent that an additional period of probation is necessary (i) for the defendant to participate in a court-ordered program or (ii) if a defendant owes restitution and is still subject to restitution compliance review hearings in accordance with § 19.2-305.1. The defendant may be ordered by the court to pay the cost of the GPS tracking device or other similar device. If, however, the court suspends or modifies any sentence fixed by a jury pursuant to § 19.2-295, the court shall file a statement of the reasons for the suspension or modification in the same manner as the statement required pursuant to subsection B of § 19.2-298.01. The judge, after convicting the defendant of any offense for which a report to the Central Criminal Records Exchange is required in accordance with subsection A of § 19.2-390, shall determine whether a copy of the defendant's fingerprints or fingerprint identification information has been provided by a law-enforcement officer to the clerk of court for each such offense. In any case where fingerprints or fingerprint identification information has not been provided by a law-enforcement officer to the clerk of court, the judge shall require that fingerprints and a photograph be taken by a law-enforcement officer as a condition of probation or of the suspension of the imposition or execution of any sentence for such offense. Such fingerprints shall be submitted to the Central Criminal Records Exchange under the provisions of subsection D of § 19.2-390.

In those courts having electronic access to the Local Inmate Data System (LIDS) within the courtroom, prior to or upon sentencing, the clerk of court shall also determine by reviewing LIDS whether a blood, saliva, or tissue sample has been taken for DNA analysis and submitted to the DNA data bank maintained by the Department of Forensic Science pursuant to Article 1.1 (§ 19.2-310.2 et seq.) of Chapter 18 of this title. In any case in which the clerk has determined that a DNA sample or analysis is not stored in the DNA data bank, or in any case in which electronic access to LIDS is not available in the courtroom, the court shall order that the defendant appear within 30 days before the sheriff or probation officer and allow the sheriff or probation officer to take the required sample. The order shall also require that, if the defendant has not appeared and allowed the sheriff or probation officer to take the required sample by the date stated in the order, then the sheriff or probation officer shall report to the court the defendant's failure to appear and provide the required sample.

After conviction and upon sentencing of an active participant or member of a criminal street gang, the court may, as a condition for suspending the imposition of the sentence in whole or in part or for placing the accused on probation, place reasonable restrictions on those persons with whom the accused may have contact. Such restrictions may include prohibiting the accused from having contact with

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58 anyone whom he knows to be a member of a criminal street gang, except that contact with a family or
59 household member, as defined in § 16.1-228, shall be permitted unless expressly prohibited by the court.

60 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in any case where a defendant is convicted of a
61 violation of § 18.2-48, 18.2-61, 18.2-63, 18.2-67.1, 18.2-67.2, 18.2-67.3, 18.2-370, or 18.2-370.1,
62 committed on or after July 1, 2006, *or § 18.2-361 committed on or after July 1, 2022*, and some portion
63 of the sentence is suspended, the judge shall order that the period of suspension shall be for a length of
64 time at least equal to the statutory maximum period for which the defendant might originally have been
65 sentenced to be imprisoned, and the defendant shall be placed on probation for that period of suspension
66 subject to revocation by the court. The conditions of probation may include such conditions as the court
67 shall determine, including active supervision. Where the conviction is for a violation of clause (iii) of
68 subsection A of § 18.2-61, subdivision A 1 of § 18.2-67.1, or subdivision A 1 of § 18.2-67.2, the court
69 shall order that at least three years of the probation include active supervision of the defendant under a
70 postrelease supervision program operated by the Department of Corrections, and for at least three years
71 of such active supervision, the defendant shall be subject to electronic monitoring by means of a GPS
72 (Global Positioning System) tracking device, or other similar device.

73 If a person is sentenced to jail upon conviction of a misdemeanor or a felony, the court may, at any
74 time before the sentence has been completely served, suspend the unserved portion of any such sentence,
75 place the person on probation in accordance with the provisions of this section, or otherwise modify the
76 sentence imposed.

77 If a person has been sentenced for a felony to the Department of Corrections (the Department), the
78 court that heard the case, if it appears compatible with the public interest and there are circumstances in
79 mitigation of the offense, may, at any time before the person is transferred to the Department, or within
80 60 days of such transfer, suspend or otherwise modify the unserved portion of such a sentence. The
81 court may place the person on probation in accordance with the provisions of this section.

82 **§ 19.2-303.1. Fixing period of suspension of sentence.**

83 In any case where a court suspends the imposition or execution of a sentence, it may fix the period
84 of suspension for up to the statutory maximum period for which the defendant might originally have
85 been sentenced to be imprisoned *for any felony offense and up to five years for any offense punishable*
86 *as a Class 1 or Class 2 misdemeanor*. The limitation on the period of suspension shall not apply to the
87 extent that an additional period of suspension is necessary for the defendant to participate in a
88 court-ordered program.

89 **§ 19.2-306. Revocation of suspension of sentence and probation.**

90 A. In any case in which the court has suspended the execution or imposition of sentence, the court
91 may revoke the suspension of sentence for any cause the court deems sufficient that occurred at any
92 time within the probation period, or within the period of suspension *of imposition of sentence* fixed by
93 the court. If neither a probation period nor a period of suspension *of imposition of sentence* was fixed
94 by the court, then the court may revoke the suspension for any cause the court deems sufficient that
95 occurred within the maximum period for which the defendant might originally have been sentenced to
96 be imprisoned.

97 B. The court may not conduct a hearing to revoke the suspension of sentence unless the court issues
98 process to notify the accused or to compel his appearance before the court within 90 days of receiving
99 notice of the alleged violation or within one year after the expiration of the period of probation or the
100 period of suspension *of imposition of sentence*, whichever is sooner, or, in the case of a failure to pay
101 restitution, within three years after such expiration. If neither a probation period nor a period of
102 suspension *of imposition of sentence* was fixed by the court, then the court shall issue process within six
103 months after the expiration of the maximum period for which the defendant might originally have been
104 sentenced to be incarcerated. Such notice and service of process may be waived by the defendant, in
105 which case the court may proceed to determine whether the defendant has violated the conditions of
106 suspension.

107 C. If the court, after hearing, finds good cause to believe that the defendant has violated the terms of
108 suspension *solely by committing a first technical violation*, then ~~the court may revoke the suspension and~~
109 ~~impose a sentence in accordance with the provisions of § 19.2-306.1~~ (i) *if the court originally suspended*
110 *the imposition of sentence, the court shall revoke the suspension, and the court may pronounce whatever*
111 *sentence might have been originally imposed or* (ii) *if the court originally suspended the execution of*
112 *the sentence, the court shall revoke the suspension and the original sentence shall be in full force and*
113 *effect*. The court ~~may~~ shall again suspend all ~~or any part~~ of this sentence for *the same period of time as*
114 *pronounced in the original sentencing order or for a period up to the statutory maximum period for*
115 *which the defendant might originally have been sentenced to be imprisoned, less any time already*
116 *served whichever is less*, and may place the defendant upon terms and conditions or probation. The
117 court shall measure the period of any suspension of sentence from the date of the entry of the original
118 sentencing order. However, if a court finds that a defendant has absconded from the jurisdiction of the
119 court, the court may extend the period of probation or suspended sentence for a period not to exceed the

~~length of time that such defendant absconded~~The limitation on the period of probation or supervised probation shall not apply to the extent that an additional period of probation is necessary (a) for the defendant to participate in a court-ordered program or (b) if a defendant owes restitution and is still subject to restitution compliance review hearings in accordance with § 19.2-305.1.

D. If the court, after hearing, finds good cause to believe that the defendant has violated the terms of suspension by committing a second or subsequent technical violation, or any other violation, including a violation of any specific or special term or condition imposed by the court in the original or any subsequent sentencing order, then: (i) if the court originally suspended the imposition of sentence, the court shall revoke the suspension, and the court may pronounce whatever sentence might have been originally imposed or (ii) if the court originally suspended the execution of the sentence, the court shall revoke the suspension and the original sentence shall be in full force and effect. The court may again suspend all or any part of this sentence and may place the defendant upon terms and conditions or probation as deemed appropriate by the court.

E. If any court has, after hearing, found no cause to impose a sentence that might have been originally imposed, or to revoke a suspended sentence or probation, then any further hearing to impose a sentence or revoke a suspended sentence or probation, based solely on the alleged violation for which the hearing was held, shall be barred.

F. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deprive any person of his right to appeal in the manner provided by law to the circuit court having criminal jurisdiction from a judgment or order revoking any suspended sentence.

G. For the purposes of this section, "technical violation" means a violation based on the probationer's failure to (i) report any arrest, including traffic tickets, within three days to the probation officer; (ii) maintain regular employment or notify the probation officer of any changes in employment; (iii) report within three days of release from incarceration; (iv) permit the probation officer to visit his home and place of employment; (v) follow the instructions of the probation officer, be truthful and cooperative, and report as instructed; (vi) refrain from the use of alcoholic beverages to the extent that it disrupts or interferes with his employment or orderly conduct; (vii) refrain from the use of controlled substances or related paraphernalia; (viii) gain permission to change his residence or remain in the Commonwealth or other designated area without permission of the probation officer; or (ix) a good behavior violation that did not result in a criminal conviction. "Technical violation" does not include a violation of any specific or special term or condition imposed by the court in the original or any subsequent sentencing order. Multiple technical violations arising from a single course of conduct or a single incident or considered at the same revocation hearing shall not be considered separate technical violations for the purposes of sentencing pursuant to this section.

2. That § 19.2-306.1 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.

3. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 552 of the Acts of Assembly of 2021, Special Session I, requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.