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HOUSE BILL NO. 811

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 12, 2022

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-120 and 19.2-124 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 19.2-120.2, relating to admission to bail; rebuttable presumptions against bail.

 Patron—Williams

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 19.2-120 and 19.2-124 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 19.2-120.2 as follows:

§ 19.2-120. Admission to bail.

Prior to conducting any hearing on the issue of bail, release or detention, the judicial officer shall, to the extent feasible, obtain the person's criminal history.

A. A person who is held in custody pending trial or hearing for an offense, civil or criminal contempt, or otherwise shall be admitted to bail by a judicial officer, unless there is probable cause to believe that:

1. He will not appear for trial or hearing or at such other time and place as may be directed, or

2. His liberty will constitute an unreasonable danger to himself, family or household members as defined in § 16.1-228, or the public.

B. In making a determination under subsection A, the judicial officer shall consider all relevant information, including (i) the nature and circumstances of the offense; (ii) whether a firearm is alleged to have been used in the commission of the offense; (iii) the weight of the evidence; (iv) the history of the accused or juvenile, including his family ties or involvement in employment, education, or medical, mental health, or substance abuse treatment; (v) his length of residence in, or other ties to, the community; (vi) his record of convictions; (vii) his appearance at court proceedings or flight to avoid prosecution or convictions for failure to appear at court proceedings; and (viii) whether the person is likely to obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice, or threaten, injure, or intimidate, or attempt to threaten, injure, or intimidate, a prospective witness, juror, victim, or family or household member as defined in § 16.1-228.

C. ~~The judicial officer shall presume, subject to rebuttal, that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the person or the safety of the public if the person is currently charged with:~~

1. An act of violence as defined in § 19.2-297.1;

2. An offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment;

3. A violation of § 18.2-248, 18.2-248.01, 18.2-255, or 18.2-255.2 involving a Schedule I or II controlled substance if (i) the maximum term of imprisonment is 10 years or more and the person was previously convicted of a like offense or (ii) the person was previously convicted as a drug kingpin as formerly defined in § 18.2-248;

4. A violation of § 18.2-308.1, 18.2-308.2, or 18.2-308.4 and which relates to a firearm and provides for a mandatory minimum sentence;

5. Any felony, if the person has been convicted of two or more offenses described in subdivision 1 or 2, whether under the laws of the Commonwealth or substantially similar laws of the United States;

6. Any felony committed while the person is on release pending trial for a prior felony under federal or state law or on release pending imposition or execution of sentence or appeal of sentence or conviction;

7. An offense listed in subsection B of § 18.2-67.5:2 and the person had previously been convicted of an offense listed in § 18.2-67.5:2 or a substantially similar offense under the laws of any state or the United States and the judicial officer finds probable cause to believe that the person who is currently charged with one of these offenses committed the offense charged;

8. A violation of § 18.2-374.1 or 18.2-374.3 where the offender has reason to believe that the solicited person is under 15 years of age and the offender is at least five years older than the solicited person;

9. A violation of § 18.2-46.2, 18.2-46.3, 18.2-46.5, or 18.2-46.7;

10. A violation of § 18.2-36.1, 18.2-51.4, 18.2-266, or 46.2-341.24 and the person has, within the past five years of the instant offense, been convicted three times on different dates of a violation of any

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59 combination of these Code sections, or any ordinance of any county, city, or town or the laws of any
60 other state or of the United States substantially similar thereto, and has been at liberty between each
61 conviction;

62 11. A second or subsequent violation of § 16.1-253.2 or 18.2-60.4 or a substantially similar offense
63 under the laws of any state or the United States;

64 12. A violation of subsection B of § 18.2-57.2;

65 13. A violation of subsection C of § 18.2-460 charging the use of threats of bodily harm or force to
66 knowingly attempt to intimidate or impede a witness;

67 14. A violation of § 18.2-51.6 if the alleged victim is a family or household member as defined in §
68 16.1-228; or

69 15. A violation of § 18.2-355, 18.2-356, 18.2-357, or 18.2-357.1.

70 C. The judicial officer shall presume, subject to rebuttal, that no condition or combination of
71 conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the person or the safety of the public if the person
72 is being arrested pursuant to § 19.2-81.6.

73 D. A judicial officer who is a magistrate, clerk, or deputy clerk of a district court or circuit court
74 shall not admit to bail, that is not set by a judge, any person who is charged with an offense giving rise
75 to a rebuttable presumption against bail as set out in subsection B or C without the concurrence of an
76 attorney for the Commonwealth. For a person who is charged with an offense giving rise to a rebuttable
77 presumption against bail, any judge may set or admit such person to bail in accordance with this
78 section after notice and an opportunity to be heard has been provided to the attorney for the
79 Commonwealth.

80 E. The court shall consider the following factors and such others as it deems appropriate in
81 determining, for the purpose of rebuttal of the presumption against bail described in subsection B,
82 whether there are conditions of release that will reasonably assure the appearance of the person as
83 required and the safety of the public:

84 1. The nature and circumstances of the offense charged;

85 2. The history and characteristics of the person, including his character, physical and mental
86 condition, family ties, employment, financial resources, length of residence in the community, community
87 ties, past conduct, history relating to drug or alcohol abuse, criminal history, membership in a criminal
88 street gang as defined in § 18.2-46.1, and record concerning appearance at court proceedings; and

89 3. The nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the community that would be posed by
90 the person's release.

91 F. The judicial officer shall inform the person of his right to appeal from the order denying bail or
92 fixing terms of bond or recognizance consistent with § 19.2-124.

93 ~~D.~~ G. If the judicial officer sets a secured bond and the person engages the services of a licensed
94 bail bondsman, the magistrate executing recognizance for the accused shall provide the bondsman, upon
95 request, with a copy of the person's Virginia criminal history record, if readily available, to be used by
96 the bondsman only to determine appropriate reporting requirements to impose upon the accused upon his
97 release. The bondsman shall pay a \$15 fee payable to the state treasury to be credited to the Literary
98 Fund, upon requesting the defendant's Virginia criminal history record issued pursuant to § 19.2-389.
99 The bondsman shall review the record on the premises and promptly return the record to the magistrate
100 after reviewing it.

101 **§ 19.2-120.2. Presumption of no bail for illegal aliens charged with certain crimes.**

102 A. In addition to the presumption against the admission to bail under subsection B of § 19.2-120, the
103 judicial officer shall presume, subject to rebuttal, that no condition or combination of conditions will
104 reasonably assure the appearance of the person or the safety of the public if (i) the person is currently
105 charged with an offense listed in subsection A of § 19.2-297.1, subsection C of § 17.1-805, any offense
106 under Chapter 4 (§ 18.2-30 et seq.) of Title 18.2 except any offense under subsection A of § 18.2-57.2,
107 any felony offense under Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2, or any offense under
108 Article 2 (§ 18.2-266 et seq.), or any local ordinance substantially similar thereto, 4 (§ 18.2-279 et
109 seq.), 5 (§ 18.2-288 et seq.), 6 (§ 18.2-299 et seq.), 6.1 (§ 18.2-307.1 et seq.), or 7 (§ 18.2-308.1 et
110 seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2, and (ii) the person has been identified as being illegally present in the
111 United States by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

112 B. Notwithstanding subsection A, no presumption shall exist under this section as to any
113 misdemeanor offense, or any felony offense under Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title
114 18.2, unless U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has guaranteed that, in all such cases in the
115 Commonwealth, it will issue a detainer for the initiation of removal proceedings and agree to reimburse
116 for the cost of incarceration from the time of the issuance of the detainer.

117 **§ 19.2-124. Appeal from bail, bond, or recognizance order.**

118 A. If a judicial officer denies bail to a person, requires excessive bond, or fixes unreasonable terms
119 of a recognizance under this article, the person may appeal the decision of the judicial officer.

120 If the initial bail decision on a charge brought by a warrant or district court capias is made by a

magistrate, clerk, or deputy clerk, the person shall first appeal to the district court in which the case is pending.

If the initial bail decision on a charge brought by direct indictment or presentment or circuit court *capias* is made by a magistrate, clerk, or deputy clerk, the person shall first appeal to the circuit court in which the case is pending.

If the appeal of an initial bail decision is taken on any charge originally pending in a district court after that charge has been appealed, certified, or transferred to a circuit court, the person shall first appeal to the circuit court in which the case is pending.

Any bail decision made by a judge of a court may be appealed successively by the person to the next higher court, up to and including the Supreme Court of Virginia, where permitted by law.

The bail decision of the higher court on such appeal, unless the higher court orders otherwise, shall be remanded to the court in which the case is pending for enforcement and modification. The court in which the case is pending shall not modify the bail decision of the higher court, except upon a change in the circumstances subsequent to the decision of the higher court.

B. The attorney for the Commonwealth may appeal a bail, bond, or recognizance decision to the same court to which the accused person is required to appeal under subsection A.

C. ~~The~~ *In a matter not governed by subsection B or C of § 19.2-120 or § 19.2-120.2, the court granting or denying such bail may, upon appeal thereof, and for good cause shown, stay execution of such order for so long as reasonably practicable for the party to obtain an expedited hearing before the next higher court. When a district court grants bail over the presumption against bail in a matter that is governed by subsection B or C of § 19.2-120 or § 19.2-120.2, and upon notice by the Commonwealth of its appeal of the court's decision, the court shall stay execution of such order for so long as reasonably practical for the Commonwealth to obtain an expedited hearing before the circuit court, but in no event more than five days, unless the defendant requests a hearing date outside the five-day limit.*

No such stay under this subsection may be granted after any person who has been granted bail has been released from custody on such bail.

D. No filing or service fees shall be assessed or collected for any appeal taken pursuant to this section.