

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2023 SESSION

## CHAPTER 400

*An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-47 of the Code of Virginia, relating to abduction of a minor; penalty.*

[H 1892]

Approved March 23, 2023

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

**1. That § 18.2-47 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 18.2-47. Abduction and kidnapping defined; punishment.**

A. Any person who, by force, intimidation or deception, and without legal justification or excuse, seizes, takes, transports, detains or secretes another person with the intent to deprive such other person of his personal liberty or to withhold or conceal him from any person, authority or institution lawfully entitled to his charge, shall be deemed guilty of "abduction."

B. Any person who, by force, intimidation or deception, and without legal justification or excuse, seizes, takes, transports, detains or secretes another person with the intent to subject him to forced labor or services shall be deemed guilty of "abduction." For purposes of this subsection, the term "intimidation" shall include destroying, concealing, confiscating, withholding, or threatening to withhold a passport, immigration document, or other governmental identification or threatening to report another as being illegally present in the United States.

C. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any law-enforcement officer in the performance of his duty. The terms "abduction" and "kidnapping" shall be synonymous in this Code. *Except as provided in subsection D, abduction of a minor shall be punished as a Class 2 felony.* Abduction for which no punishment is otherwise prescribed shall be punished as a Class 5 felony.

D. If an offense under subsection A is committed by the parent *or a family or household member, as defined in § 16.1-228, who has been ordered custody or visitation* of the person abducted and punishable as contempt of court in any proceeding then pending, the offense shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor in addition to being punishable as contempt of court. However, such offense, if committed by the parent *or a family or household member, as defined in § 16.1-228, who has been ordered custody or visitation* of the person abducted and punishable as contempt of court in any proceeding then pending and the person abducted is removed from the Commonwealth by the abducting parent *or a family or household member, as defined in § 16.1-228, who has been ordered custody or visitation*, shall be a Class 6 felony in addition to being punishable as contempt of court.

**2. 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 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022, 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.**