

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2023 SESSION

CHAPTER 709

An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-51.6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to suffocation by blocking or obstructing the airway of another; penalty.

[H 1673]

Approved March 27, 2023

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 18.2-51.6 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-51.6. Strangulation or suffocation of another; penalty.

A. Any person who, without consent, impedes the blood circulation or respiration of another person by knowingly, intentionally, and unlawfully applying pressure to the neck of such person resulting in the wounding or bodily injury of such person is guilty of strangulation, a Class 6 felony.

B. Any person who, without consent, impedes the blood circulation or respiration of another person by knowingly, intentionally, and unlawfully blocking or obstructing the airway of such person resulting in the wounding or bodily injury of such person is guilty of suffocation, a Class 6 felony.

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.