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HOUSE BILL NO. 2293

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 11, 2023

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-13, 32.1-20, 32.1-42, and 44-146.17, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to Emergency Services and Disaster Law; Commissioner of Health; emergency orders and regulations; limitations; civil penalty.

Patron—LaRock

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 32.1-13, 32.1-20, 32.1-42, and 44-146.17, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 32.1-13. Emergency orders and regulations; civil penalty.

A. The Board may make separate orders and regulations to meet any emergency, not provided for by general regulations, for the purpose of suppressing nuisances dangerous to the public health and communicable, contagious, and infectious diseases and other dangers to the public life and health.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Board shall not make any order or regulation pursuant to this section unless, on the basis of the evidence available to the Board, (i) such order or regulation is necessary to suppress a nuisance dangerous to the public health or a communicable, contagious, or infectious disease or other danger to the public life and health; (ii) no alternatives to the proposed order or regulation that are reasonable in light of the impact on quality of life and economic well-being exist; and (iii) the provisions of such order or regulation are narrowly tailored to address the nuisance dangerous to the public health or a communicable, contagious, or infectious disease or other danger to the public life and health. Evidence considered by the Board in making such order or regulation shall be made part of the record of such decision. Any order or regulation adopted pursuant to this section shall comply with the requirements of § 57-2.02.

C. An order or regulation made by the Board pursuant to subsection B shall be valid for a period not to exceed 15 days. The Board may extend an order or regulation made pursuant to subsection B one time, for a period not to exceed 15 days, if (i) the Board provides notice of its intent to extend the order or regulation and holds at least one public hearing, which shall include opportunity for public comment, prior to such extension and (ii) on the basis of the evidence available to the Board, (a) such order or regulation is necessary to suppress a nuisance dangerous to the public health or a communicable, contagious, or infectious disease or other danger to the public life and health; (b) no alternatives to the proposed order or regulation that are reasonable in light of the impact on quality of life and economic well-being exist; and (c) the provisions of such order or regulation are narrowly tailored to address the nuisance dangerous to the public health or a communicable, contagious, or infectious disease or other danger to the public life and health. Evidence considered by the Board in extending such order or regulation shall be made part of the record of such decision.

D. Any order that (i) limits the number of individuals who may gather together in person, in public or private, or (ii) categorizes individuals on the basis of their relationship to or association with such individuals and limits the categories of individuals with whom an individual who is not known or reasonably suspected to have been exposed to or infected with a communicable disease of public health threat may associate shall be deemed to negatively impact the quality of life and economic well-being of residents of the Commonwealth.

E. Any person who violates an order or regulation made pursuant to this section is subject to a civil penalty of no more than \$100 per violation. Such civil penalty shall be collected by the Commissioner and is payable to the Literary Fund. In no case shall any person be assessed a total of more than \$1,000 in penalties for violations of the same order or regulation.

F. Any emergency order or regulation made by the Board under this section shall not be exempt from the provisions of § 32.1-24 and shall not be exempt from judicial review under § 2.2-4026. Nothing in this section limits the applicability of any otherwise applicable provision of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et. seq.).

§ 32.1-20. Vested with authority of Board.

A. The Commissioner shall be vested with all the authority of the Board when it is not in session, subject to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Board.

B. Any order or regulation made by the Commissioner pursuant to this section shall be subject to the requirements of § 32.1-13.

INTRODUCED

HB2293

59 **§ 32.1-42. Emergency rules and regulations.**

60 The Board of Health may promulgate regulations and orders to meet any emergency or to prevent a
61 potential emergency caused by a disease dangerous to public health, including, but not limited to,
62 procedures specifically responding to any disease listed pursuant to § 32.1-35 that is determined to be
63 caused by an agent or substance used as a weapon or any communicable disease of public health threat
64 that is involved in an order of quarantine or an order of isolation pursuant to Article 3.02 (§ 32.1-48.05
65 et seq.) of this chapter. *Any regulation or order adopted by the Board pursuant to this section shall be*
66 *subject to the provisions of § 32.1-13.*

67 **§ 44-146.17. (Effective until July 1, 2023) Powers and duties of Governor.**

68 The Governor shall be Director of Emergency Management. He shall take such action from time to
69 time as is necessary for the adequate promotion and coordination of state and local emergency services
70 activities relating to the safety and welfare of the Commonwealth in time of disasters.

71 The Governor shall have, in addition to his powers hereinafter or elsewhere prescribed by law, the
72 following powers and duties:

73 (1) To proclaim and publish such rules and regulations and to issue such orders as may, in his
74 judgment, be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter including, but not limited to such
75 measures as are in his judgment required to control, restrict, allocate or regulate the use, sale, production
76 and distribution of food, fuel, clothing and other commodities, materials, goods, services and resources
77 under any state or federal emergency services programs.

78 He may adopt and implement the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, which
79 provides for state-level emergency operations in response to any type of disaster or large-scale
80 emergency affecting Virginia and that provides the needed framework within which more detailed
81 emergency plans and procedures can be developed and maintained by state agencies, local governments
82 and other organizations.

83 He may direct and compel evacuation of all or part of the populace from any stricken or threatened
84 area if this action is deemed necessary for the preservation of life, implement emergency mitigation,
85 preparedness, response or recovery actions; prescribe routes, modes of transportation and destination in
86 connection with evacuation; and control ingress and egress at an emergency area, including the
87 movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of premises therein.

88 Executive orders, to include those declaring a state of emergency and directing evacuation, shall have
89 the force and effect of law and the violation thereof ~~shall be punishable as a as a Class 4 misdemeanor,~~
90 *and any person who violates such order is subject to a civil penalty of no more than \$100 per violation*
91 *in every case where the executive order declares that its violation shall have such force and effect.*
92 *Where an executive order declares a violation shall be punishable as a civil penalty, such violation shall*
93 *be charged by summons and may be executed by a law-enforcement officer when such violation is*
94 *observed by the officer. The summons used by a law-enforcement officer pursuant to this section shall*
95 *be, in form, the same as the uniform summons for motor vehicle law violations as prescribed pursuant*
96 *to § 46.2-388. The proceeds of such civil penalties collected pursuant to this section shall be paid and*
97 *collected only in lawful money of the United States and paid into the state treasury to the credit of the*
98 *Literary Fund. In no case shall any person be assessed a total of more than \$1,000 in penalties for*
99 *violations of the same executive order.*

100 Such executive orders declaring a state of emergency may address exceptional circumstances that
101 exist relating to an order of quarantine or an order of isolation concerning a communicable disease of
102 public health threat that is issued by the State Health Commissioner for an affected area of the
103 Commonwealth pursuant to Article 3.02 (§ 32.1-48.05 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of Title 32.1.

104 No rule, regulation, or order issued under this section shall have any effect beyond ~~45~~ 15 days after
105 the date of issuance. Unless the General Assembly takes action on the rule, regulation, or order within
106 the ~~45~~ 15 days during which the rule, regulation, or order is effective, the Governor *may once again*
107 *issue the same rule, regulation, or order for a period not to exceed 15 days but shall thereafter be*
108 *prohibited from issuing the same or a similar rule, regulation, or order relating to the same emergency.*

109 *Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other provision of law, the Governor shall not issue any rule,*
110 *regulation, or order pursuant to this subdivision unless, on the basis of the evidence available to the*
111 *Governor, (i) such rule, regulation, or order is necessary to address a compelling circumstance; (ii) no*
112 *alternatives to the proposed rule, regulation, or order that are reasonable in light of the impact on*
113 *quality of life and economic well-being exist; and (iii) the provisions of such rule, regulation, or order*
114 *are narrowly tailored to address the compelling circumstance. Evidence considered by the Governor in*
115 *issuing such rule, regulation, or order shall be made part of the record of such decision. The Governor*
116 *may extend a rule, regulation, or order issued pursuant to this paragraph one time, for a period not to*
117 *exceed 15 days, if (a) the Governor provides notice of his intent to extend the rule, regulation, or order*
118 *and holds at least one public hearing, which shall include opportunity for public comment, prior to such*
119 *extension and (b) on the basis of the evidence available to the Governor, (1) the extension of such rule,*
120 *regulation, or order is necessary to address a compelling circumstance; (2) no alternatives to the*

121 proposed rule, regulation, or order that are reasonable in light of the impact on quality of life and
 122 economic well-being exist; and (3) the provisions of such rule, regulation, or order are narrowly
 123 tailored to address the compelling circumstance. Evidence considered by the Governor in extending such
 124 rule, regulation, or order shall be made part of the record of such decision. For the purposes of this
 125 paragraph, any rule, regulation, or order that (A) limits the number of individuals who may gather
 126 together in person, in public or private, or (B) categorizes individuals on the basis of their relationship
 127 to or association with such individuals and limits the categories of individuals with whom an individual
 128 who is not known or reasonably suspected to have been exposed to or infected with a communicable
 129 disease of public health threat may associate shall be deemed to negatively impact the quality of life
 130 and economic well-being of residents of the Commonwealth. Any rule, regulation, or order adopted
 131 pursuant to this section shall comply with the requirements of § 57-2.02. Any rule or regulation issued
 132 pursuant to this section that meets the definition for a rule or regulation under § 2.2-4001, including
 133 any rule or regulation in the context of an order issued under this section, shall be subject to judicial
 134 review under § 2.2-4026. Nothing in this section limits the applicability of any otherwise applicable
 135 provision of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et. seq.);

136 (2) To appoint a State Coordinator of Emergency Management and authorize the appointment or
 137 employment of other personnel as is necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, and to
 138 remove, in his discretion, any and all persons serving hereunder;

139 (3) To procure supplies and equipment, to institute training and public information programs relative
 140 to emergency management and to take other preparatory steps including the partial or full mobilization
 141 of emergency management organizations in advance of actual disaster, to insure the furnishing of
 142 adequately trained and equipped forces in time of need;

143 (4) To make such studies and surveys of industries, resources, and facilities in the Commonwealth as
 144 may be necessary to ascertain the capabilities of the Commonwealth and to plan for the most efficient
 145 emergency use thereof;

146 (5) On behalf of the Commonwealth to enter into mutual aid arrangements with other states and to
 147 coordinate mutual aid plans between political subdivisions of the Commonwealth. After a state of
 148 emergency is declared in another state and the Governor receives a written request for assistance from
 149 the executive authority of that state, the Governor may authorize the use in the other state of personnel,
 150 equipment, supplies, and materials of the Commonwealth, or of a political subdivision, with the consent
 151 of the chief executive officer or governing body of the political subdivision;

152 (6) To delegate any administrative authority vested in him under this chapter, and to provide for the
 153 further delegation of any such authority, as needed;

154 (7) Whenever, in the opinion of the Governor, the safety and welfare of the people of the
 155 Commonwealth require the exercise of emergency measures due to a threatened or actual disaster, to
 156 declare a state of emergency to exist;

157 (8) To request a major disaster declaration from the President, thereby certifying the need for federal
 158 disaster assistance and ensuring the expenditure of a reasonable amount of funds of the Commonwealth,
 159 its local governments, or other agencies for alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering resulting
 160 from the disaster;

161 (9) To provide incident command system guidelines for state agencies and local emergency response
 162 organizations;

163 (10) Whenever, in the opinion of the Governor or his designee, an employee of a state or local
 164 public safety agency responding to a disaster has suffered an extreme personal or family hardship in the
 165 affected area, such as the destruction of a personal residence or the existence of living conditions that
 166 imperil the health and safety of an immediate family member of the employee, to direct the Comptroller
 167 of the Commonwealth to issue warrants not to exceed \$2,500 per month, for up to three calendar
 168 months, to the employee to assist the employee with the hardship; and

169 (11) During a disaster caused by a communicable disease of public health threat for which a state of
 170 emergency has been declared pursuant to subdivision (7), to establish a program through which the
 171 Governor may purchase PPE for private, nongovernmental entities and distribute the PPE to such
 172 private, nongovernmental entities. If federal funding is available to establish and fund the program, the
 173 Governor, if necessary to comply with any conditions attached to such federal funding, shall be entitled
 174 to seek reimbursement for such purchases from the private, nongovernmental entities and may establish
 175 and charge fees to recover the cost of administering the program, including the cost of procuring and
 176 distributing the PPE. However, if federal funding is not available to establish and fund the program, the
 177 Governor shall, prior to making such purchases, receive a contract for payment for purchase from the
 178 private nongovernmental entities for the full cost of procuring and distributing the PPE, which shall
 179 include any amortized costs of administering the program. Any purchase made by the Governor pursuant
 180 to this subdivision shall be exempt from the provisions of the Virginia Public Procurement Act (§
 181 2.2-4300 et seq.), except the Governor shall be encouraged to comply with the provisions of § 2.2-4310

182 when possible. The Governor shall also provide for competition where practicable and include a written
 183 statement regarding the basis for awarding any contract. Prior to implementing such a program, the
 184 Department of Emergency Management shall consult with and survey private, nongovernmental entities
 185 in order to assess demand for participation in the program as well as the quantity and types of personal
 186 protective equipment such entities would like to procure.

187 As used in this subdivision, "personal protective equipment" or "PPE" means equipment or supplies
 188 worn or employed to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses
 189 and may include items such as gloves, safety glasses and shoes, earplugs or muffs, hard hats, respirators,
 190 coveralls, vests, full body suits, hand sanitizer, plastic shields, or testing for the communicable disease
 191 of public health threat.

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 197 following powers and duties:

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 199 judgment, be necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter including, but not limited to such
 200 measures as are in his judgment required to control, restrict, allocate or regulate the use, sale, production
 201 and distribution of food, fuel, clothing and other commodities, materials, goods, services and resources
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 204 provides for state-level emergency operations in response to any type of disaster or large-scale
 205 emergency affecting Virginia and that provides the needed framework within which more detailed
 206 emergency plans and procedures can be developed and maintained by state agencies, local governments
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208 He may direct and compel evacuation of all or part of the populace from any stricken or threatened
 209 area if this action is deemed necessary for the preservation of life, implement emergency mitigation,
 210 preparedness, response or recovery actions; prescribe routes, modes of transportation and destination in
 211 connection with evacuation; and control ingress and egress at an emergency area, including the
 212 movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of premises therein.

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 214 the force and effect of law and the violation thereof shall be punishable as a ~~Class 1 misdemeanor~~ as a
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 216 its violation shall have such force and effect. *Where an executive order declares that a violation shall*
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