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**HOUSE BILL NO. 167**

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled January 2, 2024

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 19.2-206 and 19.2-210 of the Code of Virginia, relating to special grand juries.*

Patrons—Keys-Gamarra, Clark, Henson and Shin

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

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

- 1. That §§ 19.2-206 and 19.2-210 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**  
**§ 19.2-206. When impanelled.**

A. Special grand juries may be impanelled by a circuit court (i) at any time upon its own motion, (ii) upon recommendation of a minority of the members of a regular grand jury that a special grand jury be impanelled, to perform the functions provided for in subdivision (2) of § 19.2-191, or (iii) upon request of the attorney for the Commonwealth to investigate and report on any condition that involves or tends to promote criminal activity and consider bills of indictment to determine whether there is sufficient probable cause to return each such indictment as a "true bill."

B. A special grand jury shall be impanelled by a circuit court upon the recommendation of a majority of the members of a regular grand jury if the court finds probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed which should be investigated by a special grand jury impanelled to perform the functions provided for in subdivision (2) of § 19.2-191.

C. *A special grand jury shall be impanelled by a circuit court when an unarmed person is killed by a law-enforcement officer, as defined in § 9.1-101, or a correctional officer, as defined in § 53.1-1, to investigate and report on any condition that involves or tends to promote criminal activity and consider bills of indictment to determine whether there is sufficient probable cause to return each such indictment as a "true bill."*

**§ 19.2-210. Presence of attorney for the Commonwealth.**

The attorney for the Commonwealth shall not be present at any time while the special grand jury is in session except that during the investigatory stage of its proceedings he may be present. When the special grand jury is impanelled upon motion of the court or recommendation of a regular grand jury, he may be present during the investigatory stage only when his presence is requested by the special grand jury and may interrogate witnesses provided the special grand jury requests or consents to such interrogation. When the special grand jury was impanelled upon his request, he may examine any witness called to testify or produce evidence, but his examination of a witness shall in no way affect the right of any grand juror to examine the witness. *When the special grand jury was impanelled pursuant to subsection C of § 19.2-206, the court shall appoint a special prosecutor to act in the manner described when a special grand jury is impanelled upon motion of the court or recommendation of a regular grand jury, and the attorney for the Commonwealth shall not be present during the investigatory stage or interrogate witnesses.*

The attorney for the Commonwealth shall not be present during or after the investigative stage of the proceedings at any time while the special grand jury is discussing, evaluating or considering the testimony of a witness or is deliberating in order to reach decisions or prepare its report, except that he may be present when his legal advice is requested by the special grand jury.

INTRODUCED

HB167