

## VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

*An Act to amend and reenact §§ 18.2-308.1:1, 18.2-308.1:2, 18.2-308.1:3, and 18.2-308.2:1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to restoration of firearm rights.*

[H 1699]

Approved

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

**1. That §§ 18.2-308.1:1, 18.2-308.1:2, 18.2-308.1:3, and 18.2-308.2:1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 18.2-308.1:1. Purchase, possession or transportation of firearms by persons acquitted by reason of insanity; penalty; permit.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person acquitted by reason of insanity and committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, pursuant to Chapter 11.1 (§ 19.2-182.2 et seq.) of Title 19.2, on a charge of treason, any felony or any offense punishable as a misdemeanor under Title 54.1 or a Class 1 or Class 2 misdemeanor under this title, except those misdemeanor violations of (i) Article 2 (§ 18.2-266 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of this title, (ii) Article 2 (§ 18.2-415 et seq.) of Chapter 9 of this title, or (iii) § 18.2-119, or (iv) an ordinance of any county, city, or town similar to the offenses specified in (i), (ii), or (iii), to knowingly and intentionally purchase, possess, or transport any firearm. A violation of this ~~section~~ subsection shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

B. Any person so acquitted may, upon discharge from the custody of the Commissioner, petition the general district court in the city or county in which he resides for a permit to restore his right to purchase, possess or ~~carry~~ transport a firearm. A copy of the petition shall be mailed or delivered to the attorney for the Commonwealth for the jurisdiction where the petition was filed who shall be entitled to respond and represent the interests of the Commonwealth. The court shall conduct a hearing if requested by either party. If the court determines that, after receiving and considering evidence concerning the circumstances regarding the disability referred to in subsection A and the person's criminal history, treatment record, and reputation ~~are such as developed through character witness statements, testimony, or other character evidence~~, that the person will not be likely to act in a manner dangerous to public safety and that the granting of the relief would not be contrary to the public interest, the court shall grant the petition. Any person denied relief by the general district court may petition the circuit court for a de novo review of the denial. Upon a grant of relief in any court, the court shall enter a written order granting the petition and issue a permit, in which event the provisions of subsection A do not apply. The clerk of court shall certify and forward forthwith to the Central Criminal Records Exchange, on a form provided by the Exchange, a copy of any such order.

C. As used in this section, "treatment record" shall include copies of health records detailing the petitioner's psychiatric history, which shall include the records pertaining to the commitment or adjudication that is the subject of the request for relief pursuant to this section.

§ 18.2-308.1:2. Purchase, possession or transportation of firearm by persons adjudicated legally incompetent or mentally incapacitated; penalty.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person who has been adjudicated (i) legally incompetent pursuant to former § 37.1-128.02 or former § 37.1-134, (ii) mentally incapacitated pursuant to former § 37.1-128.1 or former § 37.1-132 or (iii) incapacitated pursuant to Chapter 10 (§ 37.2-1000 et seq.) of Title 37.2 ~~and whose competency or capacity has not been restored pursuant to former § 37.1-134.1 or § 37.2-1012~~, to purchase, possess, or transport any firearm. A violation of this ~~section~~ subsection shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

B. Any person whose competency or capacity has been restored pursuant to former § 37.1-134.1 or § 37.2-1012 may petition the general district court in the city or county in which he resides to restore his right to purchase, possess or transport a firearm. A copy of the petition shall be mailed or delivered to the attorney for the Commonwealth for the jurisdiction where the petition was filed who shall be entitled to respond and represent the interests of the Commonwealth. The court shall conduct a hearing if requested by either party. If the court determines, after receiving and considering evidence concerning the circumstances regarding the disability referred to in subsection A and the person's criminal history, treatment record, and reputation as developed through character witness statements, testimony, or other character evidence, that the person will not be likely to act in a manner dangerous to public safety and that the granting of the relief would not be contrary to the public interest, the court shall grant the petition. Any person denied relief by the general district court may petition the circuit court for a de

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57 *novo* review of the denial. Upon a grant of relief in any court, the court shall enter a written order  
 58 granting the petition, in which event the provisions of subsection A do not apply. The clerk of court  
 59 shall certify and forward forthwith to the Central Criminal Records Exchange, on a form provided by  
 60 the Exchange, a copy of any such order.

61 C. As used in this section, "treatment record" shall include copies of health records detailing the  
 62 petitioner's psychiatric history, which shall include the records pertaining to the commitment or  
 63 adjudication that is the subject of the request for relief pursuant to this section.

64 § 18.2-308.1:3. Purchase, possession or transportation of firearm by persons involuntarily admitted or  
 65 ordered to outpatient treatment; penalty.

66 A. It shall be unlawful for any person involuntarily admitted to a facility or ordered to mandatory  
 67 outpatient treatment pursuant to § 19.2-169.2, involuntarily admitted to a facility or ordered to  
 68 mandatory outpatient treatment as the result of a commitment hearing pursuant to Article 5 (§ 37.2-814  
 69 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 37.2, or who was the subject of a temporary detention order pursuant to  
 70 § 37.2-809 and subsequently agreed to voluntary admission pursuant to § 37.2-805 to purchase, possess  
 71 or transport a firearm. A violation of this subsection shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

72 B. Any person prohibited from purchasing, possessing or transporting firearms under this section  
 73 may, at any time following his release from involuntary admission to a facility, his release from an  
 74 order of mandatory outpatient treatment, or his release from voluntary admission pursuant to § 37.2-805  
 75 following the issuance of a temporary detention order, petition the general district court in the city or  
 76 county in which he resides to restore his right to purchase, possess or transport a firearm. A copy of the  
 77 petition shall be mailed or delivered to the attorney for the Commonwealth for the jurisdiction where the  
 78 petition was filed who shall be entitled to respond and represent the interests of the Commonwealth. The  
 79 court shall conduct a hearing if requested by either party. If the court determines ~~that~~, *after receiving*  
 80 *and considering evidence concerning* the circumstances regarding the disabilities referred to in  
 81 subsection A and the person's criminal history, treatment record, and reputation ~~are such as developed~~  
 82 *through character witness statements, testimony, or other character evidence*, that the person will not  
 83 likely act in a manner dangerous to public safety and that granting the relief would not be contrary to  
 84 the public interest, the court shall grant the petition. Any person denied relief by the general district  
 85 court may petition the circuit court for a de novo review of the denial. Upon a grant of relief in any  
 86 court, the court shall enter a written order granting the petition, in which event the provisions of  
 87 subsection A ~~shall no longer~~ *do not* apply. The clerk of court shall certify and forward forthwith to the  
 88 Central Criminal Records Exchange, on a form provided by the Exchange, a copy of any such order.

89 C. As used in this section, "treatment record" shall include copies of health records detailing the  
 90 petitioner's psychiatric history, which shall include the records pertaining to the commitment or  
 91 adjudication that is the subject of the request for relief pursuant to this section.

92 § 18.2-308.2:1. Prohibiting the selling, etc., of firearms to certain persons.

93 Any person who sells, barter, gives or furnishes, or has in his possession or under his control with  
 94 the intent of selling, bartering, giving or furnishing, any firearm to any person he knows is prohibited  
 95 from possessing or transporting a firearm pursuant to § 18.2-308.1:1, 18.2-308.2, subsection B of  
 96 § 18.2-308.2:01, or § 18.2-308.7 shall be guilty of a Class 6 felony. However, this prohibition shall not  
 97 be applicable when the person convicted of the felony, adjudicated delinquent or acquitted by reason of  
 98 insanity has (i) been issued a permit pursuant to subsection C of § 18.2-308.2 or *been granted relief*  
 99 *pursuant to* subsection B of § 18.2-308.1:1, (ii) been pardoned or had his political disabilities removed  
 100 in accordance with subsection B of § 18.2-308.2 or (iii) obtained a permit to ship, transport, possess or  
 101 receive firearms pursuant to the laws of the United States.