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SENATE BILL NO. 1195

Senate Amendments in [] — January 26, 2015

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 9.1-150.2, 15.2-1748, and 19.2-13 of the Code of Virginia, relating to special conservators of the peace; training standards, registration, etc.

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Senator Norment

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 9.1-150.2, 15.2-1748, and 19.2-13 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 9.1-150.2. Powers of Criminal Justice Services Board relating to special conservators of the peace appointed pursuant to § 19.2-13.

The Board may shall adopt regulations establishing compulsory minimum, entry-level, in-service, and advanced training standards for special conservators of the peace. The regulations may include provisions delegating to the Board's staff the right to inspect the facilities and programs of persons conducting training to ensure compliance with the law and its regulations. In establishing compulsory training standards for special conservators of the peace, the Board shall require training to be obtained at a criminal justice training academy established pursuant to § 15.2-1747, or at a private security training school certified by the Department, and shall ensure the public safety and welfare against incompetent or unqualified persons engaging in the activities regulated by this section. The regulations may provide for exemption from training of persons having previous employment as law-enforcement officers for a state or the federal government. However, no such exemption shall be granted to persons having less than five continuous years of such employment, nor shall an exemption be provided for any person whose employment as a law-enforcement officer was terminated because of his misconduct or incompetence or who has been decertified as a law-enforcement officer. The regulations may include provisions for partial exemption from such training for persons having previous training that meets or exceeds the minimum training standards and has been approved by the Department. The Board may also adopt regulations that (i) establish the qualifications of applicants for registration; (ii) cause to be examined the qualifications of each applicant for registration; (iii) provide for collection of fees for registration and renewal that are sufficient to cover all expenses for administration and operation of a program of registration; (iv) ensure continued competency and prevent deceptive or misleading practices by practitioners; (v) effectively administer the regulatory system promulgated by the Board; (vi) provide for receipt of complaints concerning the conduct of any person whose activities are regulated by the Board; (vii) provide for investigations, and appropriate disciplinary action if warranted; and (viii) allow the Board to revoke, suspend or refuse to renew a registration, certification, or license for just cause as enumerated in regulations of the Board. The Board shall not adopt compulsory, minimum, entry-level training standards in excess of 24 98 hours for unarmed special conservators of the peace or in excess of 40 and 130 hours for armed special conservators of the peace. In adopting its regulations, the Board shall seek the advice of the Private Security Services Advisory Board established pursuant to § 9.1-143.

§ 15.2-1748. Powers of the academies.

A. Upon organization of an academy, it shall be a public body corporate and politic, the purposes of which shall be to establish and conduct training for public law-enforcement and correctional officers, those being trained to be public law-enforcement and correctional officers and, other personnel who assist or support such officers, and those persons seeking appointments as special conservators of the peace pursuant to § 19.2-13. The persons trained by an academy need not be employed by a locality which that has joined in the agreement creating the academy.

B. Criminal justice training academies may:

1. Adopt and have a common seal and alter that seal at the pleasure of the board of directors;
2. Sue and be sued;
3. Adopt bylaws and make rules and regulations for the conduct of its business;
4. Make and enter into all contracts or agreements, as it may determine are necessary, incidental or convenient to the performance of its duties and to the execution of the powers granted under this article;
5. Apply for and accept, disburse and administer for itself or for a member governmental unit any loans or grants of money, materials or property from any private or charitable source, the United States of America, the Commonwealth, any agency or instrumentality thereof, or from any other source;
6. Employ engineers, attorneys, planners and such other professional experts or consultants, and general and clerical employees as may be deemed necessary and prescribe such experts, consultants, and

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60 employees' powers, duties, and compensation;

61 7. Perform any acts authorized under this article through or by means of its own officers, agents and
62 employees, or by contracts with any person, firm or corporation;

63 8. Acquire, whether by purchase, exchange, gift, lease or otherwise, any interest in real or personal
64 property, and improve, maintain, equip and furnish academy facilities;

65 9. Lease, sell, exchange, donate and convey any interest in any or all of its projects, property or
66 facilities in furtherance of the purposes of the academy as set forth in this article;

67 10. Accept contributions, grants and other financial assistance from the United States of America and
68 its agencies or instrumentalities thereof, the Commonwealth, any political subdivision, agency or public
69 instrumentality thereof or from any other source, for or in aid of the construction, acquisition,
70 ownership, maintenance or repair of the academy facilities, for the payment of principal of, or interest
71 on, any bond of the academy, or other costs incident thereto, or make loans in furtherance of the
72 purposes of this article of such money, contributions, grants, and other financial assistance, and comply
73 with such conditions and to execute such agreements, trust indentures, and other legal instruments as
74 may be necessary, convenient or desirable and agree to such terms and conditions as may be imposed;

75 11. Borrow money from any source for capital purposes or to cover current expenditures in any
76 given year in anticipation of the collection of revenues;

77 12. Mortgage and pledge any or all of its projects, property or facilities or parts thereof and pledge
78 the revenues therefrom or from any part thereof as security for the payment of principal and premium, if
79 any, and interest on any bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness;

80 13. Create an executive committee which may exercise the powers and authority of the academy
81 under this article pursuant to authority delegated to it by the board of directors;

82 14. Establish fees or other charges for the training services provided;

83 15. Exercise the powers granted in the agreement creating the academy; and

84 16. Execute any and all instruments and do and perform any and all acts necessary, convenient or
85 desirable for its purposes or to carry out the powers expressly given in this article.

86 **§ 19.2-13. Special conservators of the peace; authority; jurisdiction; registration; bond; liability**
87 **of employers; penalty; report.**

88 A. Upon the *submission of an application of, which shall include a temporary letter of qualification*
89 *and results of a background investigation, from* (i) any sheriff or chief of police of any county, city, or
90 town; (ii) any corporation authorized to do business in the Commonwealth; (iii) the owner, proprietor, or
91 authorized custodian of any place within the Commonwealth [, *which shall not include any local*
92 *government, its departments, or its agents, unless otherwise authorized under subdivision (i)*] ; or (iv)
93 any museum owned and managed by the Commonwealth, a circuit court judge of any county or city
94 ~~shall~~ *may* appoint special conservators of the peace who shall serve as such for such length of time as
95 the court may designate, but not exceeding four years under any one appointment, upon a showing by
96 the applicant of a necessity for the security of property or the peace and presentation of evidence that
97 the person or persons to be appointed as a special conservator of the peace possess a ~~valid registration~~
98 *temporary letter of qualification* issued by the Department of Criminal Justice Services in accordance
99 with the provisions of subsection B. ~~However,~~ *a Notice of the application, the temporary letter of*
100 *qualification, and results of the applicant's background check shall be given by the applicant to the*
101 *chief law-enforcement officer and the attorney for the Commonwealth of the county, city, or town where*
102 *the application is made, who may file a motion on whether a necessity for the security of property or*
103 *the peace exists and whether the applicant is qualified for the appointment. A judge may deny the*
104 *appointment for good cause, and shall state the specific reasons for the denial in writing in the order*
105 *denying the appointment. The order of appointment may provide that a special conservator of the peace*
106 *shall have all the powers, functions, duties, responsibilities, and authority of any other conservator of the*
107 *peace within such geographical limitations as the court may deem appropriate within the confines of the*
108 *county, city or town that makes application or within the county, city or town on the real property*
109 *where the corporate applicant is located [, or anywhere contiguous to such real property owned by or*
110 *under the protection of the company, or anywhere while the special conservator of the peace is in close*
111 *pursuit to effectuate a lawful arrest] , ~~limited, except as provided in subsection E, to the judicial circuit~~*
112 *wherein application has been made, whenever such special conservator of the peace is engaged in the*
113 *performance of his duties as such. The order shall require the special conservator of the peace to*
114 *comply with the provisions of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Virginia. The order*
115 *shall not identify the special conservator of the peace as a law-enforcement officer pursuant to*
116 *§ 9.1-101. The order may also provide, however, that the special conservator of the peace is a*
117 *"law-enforcement officer" for the purposes of Article 4 (§ 37.2-808 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 37.2 or*
118 *Article 16 (§ 16.1-335 et seq.) of Chapter 11 of Title 16.1, but such designation shall not qualify the*
119 *special conservator of the peace as a "qualified law-enforcement officer" or "qualified retired*
120 *law-enforcement officer" within the meaning of the federal Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act, 18*
121 *U.S.C. § 926 B et seq. The order may also provide that the special conservator of the peace is*

122 authorized to use the seal of the Commonwealth in a badge or other credential of office as the court
 123 may deem appropriate. The order may also provide that *shall prohibit* the special conservator of the
 124 peace *may use from using* the title "police" on any badge or, uniform worn, or vehicle displayed in the
 125 performance of his duties as such. The order may also provide that a special conservator of the peace
 126 who has completed the minimum training standards established by the Department of Criminal Justice
 127 Services; Board has the authority to affect arrests, using up to the same amount of force as would be
 128 allowed to a law-enforcement officer employed by the Commonwealth or any of its political
 129 subdivisions when making a lawful arrest. The order also may (a) require the local sheriff or chief of
 130 police to conduct a background investigation which may include a review of the applicant's school
 131 records, employment records, or interviews with persons possessing general knowledge of the applicant's
 132 character and fitness for such appointment and (b) *limit shall prohibit* the use of blue flashing lights and
 133 sirens on any personal or business vehicles used by the conservator in the performance of his duties.
 134 *The order shall prohibit the special conservator of the peace from displaying any insignia or words*
 135 *indicating he is a law-enforcement officer.* Prior to granting an application for appointment, the circuit
 136 court shall ensure that the applicant has met the registration requirements established by the Criminal
 137 Justice Services Board.

138 B. Effective September 15, 2004, no person shall seek appointment as a special conservator of the
 139 peace from a circuit court judge without possessing a valid registration issued by the Department of
 140 Criminal Justice Services, except as provided in this section. Applicants for registration may submit an
 141 application on or after January 1, 2004. A temporary registration may be issued in accordance with
 142 regulations established by the Criminal Justice Services Board while awaiting the results of a state and
 143 national fingerprint search. However, no person shall be issued a temporary registration until he *All*
 144 *applications and orders for appointments of special conservators of the peace shall be submitted on*
 145 *forms developed by [the Department of Criminal Justice Services in consultation with] the Office of the*
 146 *Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia [and shall , which shall consult with the*
 147 *Department of Criminal Justice Services. The applications and orders shall] specify the geographic*
 148 *limitations consistent with subsection A. The Department shall issue a temporary letter of qualification*
 149 *to an applicant who has (i) complied with, or been exempted from the compulsory minimum training*
 150 *standards as set forth in this section;*; (ii) submitted his fingerprints on a form provided by the
 151 Department to be used for the conduct of a national criminal records search and a Virginia criminal
 152 history records search; *and;* (iii) *submitted the results of a background investigation, performed by any*
 153 *state or local law-enforcement agency, which may, at its discretion, charge a reasonable fee to the*
 154 *applicant, and which may include a review of the applicant's school records, employment records, or*
 155 *interviews with persons possessing general knowledge of the applicant's character and fitness for such*
 156 *appointment; and (iv) met all other requirements of this article and Board regulations. No person with a*
 157 *criminal conviction for a misdemeanor involving (a) moral turpitude, (b) assault and battery, (c) damage*
 158 *to real or personal property, (d) controlled substances or imitation controlled substances as defined in*
 159 *Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2, (e) prohibited sexual behavior as described in*
 160 *Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, or (f) firearms, or (g) any felony, or who is*
 161 *required to register with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry pursuant to Chapter 9*
 162 *(§ 9.1-900 et seq.) of Title 9.1 shall be registered eligible for registration or appointment as a special*
 163 *conservator of the peace. A special conservator of the peace shall report if he is arrested for any*
 164 *misdemeanor or felony offense to the Department and the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality in*
 165 *which he has an appointment within 15 days of the arrest. All appointments for special conservators of*
 166 *the peace shall become void on September 15, 2004, unless they have obtained a valid registration*
 167 *issued by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.*

168 C. Each person registered as or seeking registration as a special conservator of the peace shall be
 169 covered by (i) a cash bond; or a surety bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in
 170 the Commonwealth, in a reasonable amount to be fixed by the Board, not to be less than \$10,000,
 171 conditioned upon the faithful and honest conduct of his business or employment; or (ii) evidence of a
 172 policy of liability insurance or self-insurance in an amount and with coverage as fixed by the Board.
 173 Any person who is aggrieved by the misconduct of any person registered as a special conservator of the
 174 peace and recovers a judgment against the registrant, which is unsatisfied in whole or in part, may bring
 175 an action in his own name against the bond or insurance policy of the registrant.

176 D. Individuals listed in § 19.2-12, individuals who have complied with or been exempted pursuant to
 177 subsection A of § 9.1-141, individuals employed as law-enforcement officers as defined in § 9.1-101
 178 who have met the minimum qualifications set forth in § 15.2-1705 shall be exempt from the
 179 requirements in subsections A through C. Further, individuals appointed under subsection A and
 180 employed by a private corporation or entity that meets the requirements of subdivision (ii) of the
 181 definition of criminal justice agency in § 9.1-101, shall be exempt from the registration requirements of
 182 subsection A and from subsections B and C provided they have met the minimum qualifications set

183 forth in § 15.2-1705. The Department of Criminal Justice Services shall, upon request by the circuit
184 court, provide evidence to the circuit court of such employment prior to appointing an individual special
185 conservator of the peace. *Effective July 1, 2015, all persons seeking appointment or reappointment as a*
186 *special conservator of the peace are required to register with the Department of Criminal Justice*
187 *Services, regardless of any other standing the person may have as a law-enforcement officer or other*
188 *position requiring registration or licensure by the Department. The employing agency employer of any*
189 *special conservator of the peace shall notify the circuit court, the Department of Criminal Justice*
190 *Services, and the Department of State Police within 30 days after the date such individual has left*
191 *employment and all powers of the special conservator of the peace shall be void. Failure to provide such*
192 *notification shall be punishable by a fine of \$250 plus an additional \$50 per day for each day such*
193 *notice is not provided.*

194 E. When the application is made *by any sheriff or chief of police*, the circuit court shall specify in
195 the order of appointment the name of the applicant authorized under subsection A and the geographic
196 jurisdiction ~~of where~~ *the special conservator of the peace is authorized to serve.* ~~Court~~ *When the*
197 *application is made by any corporation authorized to do business in the Commonwealth, any owner,*
198 *proprietor, or authorized custodian of any place within the Commonwealth, or any museum owned and*
199 *managed by the Commonwealth, the circuit court shall specify in the order of appointment the name of*
200 *the applicant authorized under subsection A and the specific real property where the special conservator*
201 *of the peace is authorized to serve. Such appointments shall be limited to the judicial circuit specific*
202 *real property within the county, city, or town wherein application has been made. In the case of a*
203 *corporation or other business, the court appointment may also include, for good cause shown, any real*
204 *property owned or leased by the corporation or business, including any subsidiaries, in other specifically*
205 *named cities and counties, but shall provide that the powers of the special conservator of the peace do*
206 *not extend beyond the boundaries of such real property. Effective July 1, 2004, the* ~~The~~ *clerk of the*
207 *appointing circuit court shall transmit a copy of the order of appointment that shall specify the following*
208 *information to the Department of State Police: the person's complete name, address, date of birth, social*
209 *security number, gender, race, height, weight, color of hair, color of eyes, firearm authority or limitation*
210 *as set forth in subsection F, date of the order, and other information as may be required by the*
211 *Department of State Police. The Department of State Police shall enter the person's name and other*
212 *information into the Virginia Criminal Information Network established and maintained by the*
213 *Department pursuant to Chapter 2 (§ 52-12 et seq.) of Title 52. The Department of State Police may*
214 *charge a fee not to exceed \$10 to cover its costs associated with processing these orders. Each special*
215 *conservator of the peace so appointed on application shall present his credentials to the chief of police*
216 *or sheriff or his designee of all jurisdictions where he has conservator powers. If his powers are limited*
217 *to certain areas real property owned or leased by a corporation or business, he shall also provide notice*
218 *of the exact physical addresses of those areas. Each special conservator shall provide to the circuit court*
219 *a temporary registration letter of qualification issued by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, to*
220 *include the results of the background check, prior to seeking an appointment by the circuit court. Once*
221 *the applicant receives the appointment from the circuit court, the applicant shall file the appointment*
222 *order and a copy of the application with the Department of Criminal Justice Services in order to receive*
223 *his special conservator of the peace photo registration card document.*

224 If any such special conservator of the peace is the employee, agent, or servant of another, his
225 appointment as special conservator of the peace shall not relieve his employer, principal, or master, from
226 civil liability to another arising out of any wrongful action or conduct committed by such special
227 conservator of the peace while within the scope of his employment.

228 Effective July 1, 2002, no person employed by a local school board as a school security officer, as
229 defined in § 9.1-101, shall be eligible for appointment as a conservator for purposes of maintaining
230 safety in a public school in the Commonwealth. All appointments of special conservators of the peace
231 granted to school security officers as defined in § 9.1-101 prior to July 1, 2002 are void.

232 F. The court may limit or prohibit the carrying of weapons by any special conservator of the peace
233 initially appointed on or after July 1, 1996, while the appointee is within the scope of his employment
234 as such.

235 G. *The circuit court shall retain jurisdiction for four years over any order it enters pursuant to this*
236 *section and may revoke such appointment at any time for good cause shown.*

237 H. *Effective January 1, 2016, no special conservator of the peace shall display or use the word*
238 *"police" on any uniform, badge, credential, or vehicle [or use blue flashing lights and sirens on any*
239 *personal or business vehicle] in the performance of his duties as a special conservator of the peace. [*
240 *No special conservator of the peace shall be permitted to display any insignia or words indicating that*
241 *he is a law-enforcement officer.] Other than special conservators of the peace employed by a museum*
242 *owned and managed by the Commonwealth, no special conservator of the peace shall use the seal of the*
243 *Commonwealth on any uniform, badge, credential, or vehicle in the performance of his duties as a*
244 *special conservator of the peace.*

245 2. That any existing special conservator of the peace appointed under a court order in effect on
246 July 1, 2015, has 24 months to comply with the new compulsory, minimum, entry-level training
247 standards and requirements as may be established pursuant to this act following his appointment.

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