

# Brain Injury Association of Virginia

## Virginia Alliance of Brain Injury Service Providers

### 2020 Legislative Needs Statement

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#### **WHAT:**

*Current Code Language **modified**: § 9.1-188. Crisis intervention team training: The Department, in consultation with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, and law-enforcement, mental health and brain injury stakeholders, shall develop a training program for all persons involved in the crisis intervention team programs, and all team members shall receive this training. The curriculum shall be approved for Department-certified in-service training credits for law-enforcement officers from each crisis intervention team and shall include and a module on brain injury and four hours of mandatory training in legal issues*

#### • **PATRONS AND BILL NUMBERS:**

- Del Tony Wilt: HB1231
- Sen John Edwards: SB494

#### **WHY:**

Given the high association between brain injury and involvement with the justice system, it seems appropriate to ensure law enforcement officers are familiar with the condition, and this amendment to existing law would provide consistent statewide training for crisis intervention teams.

- TBI is associated with higher impulsivity, aggressive behavior and negative emotion ratings (Farrer, Frost, & Hedges, 2013)
- Cognitive characteristics seen following a brain injury (e.g. impulsivity, poor problem solving and judgement, and slow processing speed, can result in legal challenges and, incarceration (Gordon and Hibbard, 2006).
- TBI in offender populations was reported to be 87% in a county jail setting. (Slaughter, Fann, and Ehde, 2003)
- Williams et al. (2010) revealed a TBI 65% prevalence rate in offender populations
- Ferguson, Pickelsimer, Corrigan, Bogner, and Wald (2012) found 65% of male inmates and 72% of female inmates reported at least one TBI resulting in a change in consciousness.
- Incidence of TBI in a mental health transition unit at a county jail among a sample of offenders with a co-morbid mental illness was found to be 96% (Gafford, McMillan, Gorgens, Dettmer, & Glover, 2015).