



HRCJTA TB 2021-10

DATE: June 10, 2021
TO: Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy Member Agencies
FROM: Scott Barlow, Executive Director
SUBJECT: HRCJTA Training Bulletin 2021-10 (Possession of Marijuana 18.2-250.1)

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The HRCJTA is a regional police academy, servicing many different jurisdictions. Each jurisdiction must provide training, and procedures on how the individual jurisdiction expects their officers/deputies to procedurally handle these **significant changes** to Virginia code.

This Training Bulletin only highlights certain new statutes of note. Please see CASC's "2020 Legislative Update - Special Session Fall 2020 Master List" outline for a more complete listing of bills, along with hyperlinks to the text of the legislation. For the most complete information, please read the full text of the new legislation.

Possession of Marijuana 18.2-250.1:

- Possession up to 1 ounce without a prescription is a civil penalty of 25 dollars.
- Must be charged by a summons.
- Ownership or occupancy of the premises or vehicle upon or in which marijuana was found shall not create a presumption that such person either knowingly or intentionally possessed such marijuana.

These changes begin July 1, 2021 and represent some of the most significant changes to how policing is done in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is critical that law enforcement officers seek guidance from their respective Commonwealth Attorney on the correct interpretation of these new laws.