2026 Special Session I

Budget Bill - HB30 (Introduced)

Item 385

A. The following process shall be applicable in order for any county, city, or regional jail authority (hereinafter referred to as "the locality") to receive state reimbursement for a portion of the costs of the construction, expansion, or renovation of a jail as provided in §§ 53.1-80 and 53.1-81, Code of Virginia:

1. The locality shall file with the Department of Corrections, by January 1 of the year in which it wishes its request to be considered, the following information in a format specified by the department:

a. the information and documents required by § 53.1-82.1, Code of Virginia;

b. specifications for the proposed construction or renovation; and

c. detailed cost estimates.

2. The Department of Corrections shall review the request and make its comments and recommendations to the State Board of Local and Regional Jails.

3. The Departments of Corrections and Criminal Justice Services shall review the community-based corrections plan and jail population forecast submitted by the locality and make their comments and recommendation concerning them to the State Board of Local and Regional Jails.

4. The State Board of Local and Regional Jails shall review and take action on the request, after reviewing the comments and recommendations of the Departments of Corrections and Criminal Justice Services. It may modify any aspect of the request before approving it. The Board shall not approve any request unless the following conditions have been met:

a. the project is consistent with the projected number of local and state responsible offenders to be housed in such facility;

b. the project meets the design criteria set out in the State Board of Local and Regional Jails' Standards for Planning, Design, Construction and Reimbursement of Local Correctional Facilities;

c. the project is proposed to be built using standards for a minimum security facility, as adopted by the Board, unless the use of more expensive construction standards is justified, based on a documented projection of offender populations that would require a higher level of security;

d. the project can be completed and operated in a cost-efficient manner; and

e. any other criteria established by the Board.

5.a. For those projects with a total cost exceeding $12,000,000 for which the State Board of Local and Regional Jails

(the Board) approves a request, the Board shall (i) submit to the Department of General Services (DGS) as soon as is practicable after Board approval, but no later than July 1, all documents and information requested by DGS to perform a design and cost review of the project at the completion of preliminary design; and (ii) submit to the Department of Planning and Budget by no later than September 15, a summary of the project and a detailed list of the Board-approved costs. Using the project information provided by the Board and the localities, DGS shall provide a cost review of the Board-approved project no later than October 15 and shall inform the Department of Planning and Budget and the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees of the outcome of its review.

b. The State Board of Local and Regional Jails, in consultation with DGS, shall evaluate and amend, if necessary, its Standards for Planning, Design, Construction, and Reimbursement of Local Correctional Facilities, to enable the Board to collect detailed data necessary for DGS to conduct a cost review process of projects approved by the Board.

6. If the State Board of Local and Regional Jails approves a request, the Department of Criminal Justice Services shall submit to the Department of Planning and Budget by October 1 a summary of the alternatives to incarceration included in the community-based corrections plan approved for the project, along with a projection of the state funds needed to implement these programs.

7. The Department of Planning and Budget shall submit to the Governor, for consideration for inclusion in the budget bill to be submitted by the Governor to the General Assembly, its recommendations concerning the approval of the request for reimbursement of jail construction or renovation costs and whether state funding is appropriate to support the alternatives to incarceration included in the community-based corrections plan.

B. The Department of Corrections shall provide an annual report on the status of jail construction and renovation projects as approved for funding by the General Assembly. The report shall be limited to those projects which increase bed capacity. The report shall include a brief summary description of each project, the total capital cost of the project and the approved state share of the capital cost, the number of beds approved, along with the net number of new beds if existing beds are to be removed, and the closure of any existing facilities, if applicable. The report shall include the six-year population forecast, as well as the double-bunking capacity compared to the rated capacity for each project listed. The report shall also include the general fund impact on community corrections programs as reported by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, and the recommended financing arrangements and estimated general fund requirements for debt service as provided by the State Treasurer. Copies of the report shall be provided by October 1 of each year to the Chairs of the Senate Finance and Appropriations and House Appropriations Committees and to the Director, Department of Planning and Budget.

C.1. No city, county, town or regional jail shall authorize the construction, remodeling, renovation or rehabilitation of any facility to house any inmate in secure custody which results in increased jail capacity without the prior approval of the State Board of Local and Regional Jails.

2. Any facility operated by any local or regional jail in the Commonwealth which houses any inmate in secure custody shall be subject to the operational provisions of §§ 53.1-5 and 53.1-68, Code of Virginia, as well as all rules, regulations, and inspections established by the State Board of Local and Regional Jails.

D. The State Board of Local and Regional Jails shall include within its reporting formats on the capacity of each local and regional jail, a measure of the actual jail capacity, which shall include double-bunking, with exceptions as appropriate, in the judgment of the Board, for isolation, segregation, or medical cells, or similar units which would not normally be double-bunked. Exceptions to this measure of capacity may also be made for jails which were constructed prior to 1980. A report including the double-bunking capacity, as well as the standard State Board of Local and Regional Jails measure of rated capacity, for each jail shall be presented to the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security and the Chairs of the Senate Finance and Appropriations and House Appropriations Committees by October 1 of each year.

E. The Commonwealth shall reimburse localities or regional jail authorities up to 25 percent of the cost of constructing, enlarging, or renovating local or regional jails, for projects approved by the Governor on or after July 1, 2017.