2026 Special Session I

Budget Bill - HB30 (Introduced)

Indigent Defense Commission

Item 40	First Year - FY2027	Second Year - FY2028
Legal Defense (32700)	**$94,773,343**	**$94,773,343**
Criminal Indigent Defense Services (32701)	$90,082,094	$90,082,094
Legal Defense Regulatory Services (32703)	$255,344	$255,344
Administrative Services (32722)	$4,435,905	$4,435,905
Fund Sources:		
General	$89,887,882	$89,887,882
Special	$4,885,461	$4,885,461

Authority: §§ 19.2-163.01 through 19.2-163.8, Code of Virginia

A. Pursuant to § 19.2-163.01, Code of Virginia, the Executive Director of the Indigent Defense Commission shall serve at the pleasure of the commission.

B. Out of the amounts in this Item, $200,000 the first year and $200,000 the second year from the general fund is provided to support two positions to enforce and monitor compliance with the new Standards of Practice for court-appointed counsel.

C. Out of the amounts in this item, $6,558,009 the first year and $6,558,009 the second year from the general fund is provided to hire additional public defender positions to address increased workloads and reduce turnover in offices across the Commonwealth. The Commission may direct a portion of the funding for salary adjustments, including increasing starting salaries for attorneys and adjusting salaries for current staff to address turnover rates within the offices.

D. The Commission shall convene a workgroup to assess the feasibility of creating an Appellate Defender Office.

E. Out of the amounts in this item, funding is provided for three positions for the Fairfax Indigent Defense Commission to provide public defender services to the Town of Herndon, the Town of Vienna, and the City of Fairfax.