2026 Special Session I

Budget Bill - HB30 (Introduced)

Bill Order » Office of Administration » Item 64

Compensation Board

Item 64	First Year - FY2027	Second Year - FY2028
Financial Assistance for Attorneys for the Commonwealth (77200)	**$116,705,440**	**$116,705,440**
Financial Assistance to Attorneys for the Commonwealth (77201)	$20,368,097	$20,368,097
Financial Assistance for Operations of Local Attorneys for the Commonwealth (77202)	$96,337,343	$96,337,343
Fund Sources:		
General	$116,115,590	$116,115,590
Dedicated Special Revenue	$589,850	$589,850

Authority: Title 15.2, Chapter 16, Articles 4 and 6.1, Code of Virginia.

A.1. The annual salaries of attorneys for the Commonwealth shall be as hereinafter prescribed according to the population of the city or county served except as otherwise provided in § 15.2-1636.12, Code of Virginia.

	July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027	**July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028**
Less than 44,999	$160,437	$163,646
45,000-99,999	$178,260	$181,825
100,000-249,999	$184,945	$188,644
250,000 and above	$191,636	$195,469

2. Whenever an attorney for the Commonwealth is such for a county and city together, or for two or more cities, the aggregate population of such political subdivisions shall be the population for the purpose of arriving at the salary of such attorney for the Commonwealth under the provisions of this paragraph and such attorney for the Commonwealth shall receive as additional compensation the sum of one thousand dollars.

B. No expenditure shall be made out of this Item for the employment of investigators, clerk-investigators or other investigative personnel in the office of an attorney for the Commonwealth.

C. Consistent with the provisions of § 19.2-349, Code of Virginia, attorneys for the Commonwealth may, in addition to the options otherwise provided by law, employ individuals to assist in collection of outstanding fines,

costs, forfeitures, penalties, and restitution. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning on the date upon which the order or judgment is entered, the costs associated with employing such individuals may be paid from the proceeds of the amounts collected provided that the cost is apportioned on a pro rata basis according to the amount collected which is due the state and that which is due the locality. The attorneys for the Commonwealth shall account for the amounts collected and apportion costs associated with the collections consistent with procedures issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts.

D. The provisions of this act notwithstanding, no Commonwealth's attorney, public defender or employee of a public defender, shall be paid or receive reimbursement for the state portion of a salary in excess of the salary paid to judges of the circuit court. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the ability of localities to supplement the salaries of locally elected constitutional officers or their employees.

E. The Statewide Juvenile Justice project positions, as established under the provisions of Item 74 E, of Chapter 912, 1996 Acts of Assembly, and Chapter 924, 1997 Acts of Assembly, are continued under the provisions of this act. The Commonwealth's attorneys receiving such positions shall annually certify to the Compensation Board that the positions are used primarily, if not exclusively, for the prosecution of delinquency and domestic relations felony cases, as defined by Chapters 912 and 924. In the event the positions are not primarily or exclusively used for the prosecution of delinquency and domestic relations felony cases, the Compensation Board shall reallocate such positions by using the allocation provisions as provided for the board in Item 74 E of Chapters 912 and 924.

F. The Compensation Board shall monitor the Department of Taxation program regarding the collection of unpaid fines and court costs by private debt collection firms contracted by Commonwealth's attorneys and shall include, in its annual report to the General Assembly on the collection of court-ordered fines and fees for clerks of the courts and Commonwealth's attorneys, the amount of unpaid fines and costs collected by this program.

G. Out of this appropriation, $685,705 the first year and $685,705 the second year from the general fund is designated for the Compensation Board to fund five additional positions in Commonwealth's attorney's offices that shall be dedicated to prosecuting gang-related criminal activities. The board shall ensure that these positions work across jurisdictional lines, serving the Northern Virginia area (counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, and Arlington and the cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, Manassas, Manassas Park and Fairfax).

H. In accordance with the provisions of § 19.2-349, Code of Virginia, attorneys for the Commonwealth may employ individuals, or contract with private attorneys, private collection agencies, or other state or local agencies, to assist in collection of delinquent fines, costs, forfeitures, penalties, and restitution. If the attorney for the Commonwealth employs individuals, the costs associated with employing such individuals may be paid from the proceeds of the amounts collected provided that the cost is apportioned on a pro rata basis according to the amount collected which is due the state and that which is due the locality. If the attorney for the Commonwealth does not undertake collection, the attorney for the Commonwealth shall, as soon as practicable, take steps to ensure that any agreement or contract with an individual, attorney or agency complies with the terms of the current Master Guidelines Governing Collection of Unpaid Delinquent Court-Ordered Fines and Costs Pursuant to Virginia Code § 19.2-349 promulgated by the Office of the Attorney General, the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, the Department of Taxation, and the Compensation Board ("the Master Guidelines"). Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the delinquent amounts owed shall be increased by seventeen (17) percent to help offset the costs associated with employing such individuals or contracting with such agencies or individuals. If such increase would exceed the contracted collection agent's fee, then the delinquent amount owed shall be increased by the percentage or amount of the collection agent's fee. Effective July 1, 2015, as provided in § 19.2-349, Code of Virginia, treasurers not being compensated on a contingency basis as of January 1, 2015 shall be prohibited from being compensated on a contingency basis but shall instead be compensated for administrative costs pursuant to § 58.1-3958, Code of Virginia. Treasurers currently collecting a contingency fee shall be eligible to contract on a contingency fee basis. Effective July 1, 2015, any treasurer collecting a contingency fee shall retain only the expenses of collection, and the excess collection shall be divided between the state and the locality in the same manner as if the collection had been done by the attorney for the Commonwealth. The attorneys for the

Commonwealth shall account for the amounts collected and the fees and costs associated with the collections consistent with procedures issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts.

I. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 7, Chapter 4, Title 38, Code of Virginia, beginning July 1, 2018, $600,000 each year from the Insurance Fraud Fund is included in this appropriation to fund multi-jurisdictional Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney positions that shall be dedicated to prosecuting insurance fraud and related criminal activities. The Department of State Police shall identify those jurisdictions most affected by insurance fraud based upon data provided by the Virginia State Police Insurance Fraud Program. The Virginia State Police Insurance Fraud Program shall ensure that these positions work across jurisdictional lines, serving jurisdictions identified as most in need of these resources as supported by data. These funds shall remain unallocated until the Compensation Board and Virginia State Police notify the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget of the joint agreements reached with the Commonwealth's Attorneys of the jurisdictions receiving the additional Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney positions and the jurisdictions to be served by these positions. The Commonwealth's Attorneys receiving such positions shall annually certify to the Compensation Board that these positions are used primarily, if not exclusively, for the prosecution of insurance fraud and related criminal activities.

J. Any locality in the Commonwealth that employs the use of body worn cameras for its law enforcement officers shall be required to establish and fund one full-time equivalent entry-level Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, at a salary no less than that established by the Compensation Board for an entry-level Commonwealth's Attorney, at a rate of one Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for up to 75 body worn cameras employed for use by local law enforcement officers, and one Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for every 75 body worn cameras employed for use by local law enforcement officers, thereafter. However, with the consent of the Commonwealth's Attorney, a locality may provide their Commonwealth's Attorney's office with additional funding, using a different formula than stated above, as needed to accommodate the additional workload resulting from the requirement to review, redact and present footage from body worn cameras. If, as of July 1, 2019, a locality is providing additional funding to the Commonwealth's Attorney's office specifically to address the staffing and workload impact of the implementation of body worn cameras on that office, that additional funding shall be credited to the formula used in that locality. Any agreed upon funding formula between the impacted Commonwealth's Attorney and the locality employing body worn cameras shall be filed with the Compensation Board by July 1 of each year and shall remain in effect unless modified by the agreement of both parties until June 30th of the following year. The term "locality" means every county or independent city with an Attorney for the Commonwealth. The term "employed for use" includes all body worn cameras maintained by the law enforcement agency or agencies of that locality, regardless of any temporary inoperability.

K. Included in this appropriation is $3,351,136 the first year and $3,351,136 the second year from the general fund for the allocation of 18 additional paralegal positions and 29 additional Assistant Commonwealth Attorney positions.

L.1. Out of the amounts in this item, $5,506,783 the first year and $5,506,783 the second year from the general fund is for the allocation of 70 additional Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney positions, to be distributed in accordance with current staffing standard needs to assist with anticipated workload increases resulting from implementation of Chapter 671 and Chapter 634 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly. Localities shall utilize such funding to supplement, not supplant, local funds provided for salaries of Commonwealth's Attorneys and their employees. Any amounts provided in this paragraph not expended by June 30, 2026, shall not revert to the general fund and shall carryforward to support anticipated expenses in the next biennium.

2. If directed by the Compensation Board to do so, all Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices shall report, in such format and on such timeline as prescribed by the Board, required information regarding workloads directly resulting from implementation of the bills' provisions.

M. Included in this appropriation is $270,970 the first year and $270,970 the second year from the general fund to

convert the Bath County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office and the Highland County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office from part- to full-time status, effective July 1, 2025.