

*Report of the
House Appropriations
Subcommittee*

on

Public Safety



House Bill 1600

February 4, 2001

**Respectfully Submitted by the House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Public Safety:**

Robert S. Bloxom, Chairman

Lacey E. Putney

Leo C. Wardrup, Jr.

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REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

on

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Chairmen and Members of the Committee:

Crime in Virginia continues to be at record low levels. While many factors, including a strong economy contribute to this fact, the Public Safety Subcommittee feels that community-based crime control efforts initiated in recent years are playing a significant part.

As the demands on our state budget have tightened, Public Safety agencies have been asked to examine all aspects of their operations and to reduce costs without jeopardizing the safety of our citizens. We trust that the public safety agencies, prior to reducing spending, will carefully examine each program to ensure that their core missions are met.

Recognizing that, as a Committee, we are faced with establishing priorities, we feel it is prudent to address several of the proposed reductions and seek your support in restoring them.

You may recall that during the 2000 Session, the Juvenile Justice system was a focus of our attention. We are pleased to report that there have been substantial improvements made to the system since that time. However, one recommendation in House Bill 1600 is the elimination of funding for an alternative sanction boot camp program. The Subcommittee believes that this program is an important part of our system and recommends the restoration of this funding.

Another area of concern is providing adequate educational programs in our adult, as well as juvenile correctional facilities. To that extent, we recommend to you an amendment to restore some of the funding for Correctional Education that was eliminated in House Bill 1600.

The Public Safety Subcommittee has carefully reviewed the reductions recommended for the Department of State Police. We are

concerned that the Department's primary mission of highway patrol and enforcement would be compromised. Therefore, we recommend to you an amendment that will defer implementation of the special division of drug law enforcement that we approved last year. By redirecting the resources that were provided for this new division back to the basic function of highway patrol, we feel the State Police can better work to keep our highways safe. The State Police can continue to perform drug law enforcement, investigation and interdiction through its existing divisions, without compromising its presence throughout the Commonwealth.

The Public Safety Subcommittee is able to support the recommendations that we have outlined through a variety of budget savings, many of which involve level funding in the second year of new initiatives that we approved last year.

Mr. Chairmen and fellow Committee members, I will ask staff to take you through our detailed recommendations, and then I hope it will be your pleasure to adopt our subcommittee report.

Report of the Public Safety Subcommittee

<u>Amendment</u>

2000-02 BIENNIAL TOTAL		
General	Nongeneral	
<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>FTE</u>

State Crime Commission			
Study of Transporting Prisoners	Language		
State Compenstaion Board			
Transportation of Prisoners	Language		
Adjust Policies for Jail Reimbursement	(1,500,000)		
Department Of Alcoholic Beverage Control			
ABC Operations Study	Language		
Department Of Correctional Education			
Restore Correctional Ed. Funding	1,500,000		
DOC Level Fund SABRE	(2,007,054)		
Piedmont Regional Jail	Language		
Prison Family Support Services		20,000	
Faith-Based Services		100,000	
Department Of Criminal Justice Services			
Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Drug Court		200,000	
Portsmouth Drug Court		125,000	
Computer Crime Investigation Pilot Project	Language		
Nongeneral Fund Positions			15.00
DCJS Level Fund SABRE	(1,000,000)		
HB 599 Error	(152,845)		
Department Of Juvenile Justice			
Transfer Office on Youth Funding	(2,018,732)		
Boot Camp Program	4,500,000		
DJJ Level Fund SABRE	(1,170,000)		
Funding for Offices on Youth	Language		
Department Of State Police			
State Police Primary Mission	Language		
Land Mobile Radio System	Language		
Part 3/Transfers			
Restore VASAP Funds	1,000,000		
Total for Public Safety	(848,631)	445,000	15.00