



Report of the Subcommittee on
Public Safety

Senate Finance Committee
Virginia General Assembly

February 21, 2016

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
On Senate Bills 29 and 30, as Introduced
(February 21, 2016)

Mr. Chairmen and Members of the Committee:

Your subcommittee has reviewed the provisions of Senate Bills 29 and 30, the budget bills, as introduced, for the Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security and the Office of Veterans and Defense Affairs.

Overall, this is a good budget, with much to support in the way of improving essential services for veterans and improving the criminal justice system. However, in view of the need to constrain spending growth wherever possible in order to redirect available resources towards our highest priorities, as the Co-Chairmen have directed, we are recommending a number of amendments to either phase-in or reduce new spending.

For example, we recommend delaying the opening of the new Culpeper correctional center for women by six months (from January to July, 2017). And, we recommend limiting the growth in spending on inmate medical care in Fiscal Year 2018 to four percent over FY 2017, to provide additional time for the Department of Corrections (DOC) and our subcommittee to review potential steps to reduce medical cost growth. Even with these amendments, the resources available for public safety and veterans' programs are increasing.

Briefly, we have allocated \$34.6 million to reverse the Medicaid expansion that was embedded within the DOC budget as introduced. And, we have recommended a total of \$9.0 million for other, additional spending amendments, which are offset by \$19.9 million in budget reductions and \$20.7 million in new revenues identified in our subcommittee report. As a result, the net cost of reversing the Medicaid expansion plus the other recommended expenditures in this report is about \$3.0 million.

We are fortunate to live in a time in which crime rates in Virginia are low and our prison and jail and juvenile facility populations are not increasing as rapidly as they once were. However, that circumstance did not happen by accident. We owe a debt of gratitude to the professionals who work in our criminal justice system, who are dedicated to maintaining public safety 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. That includes all of our state and local law enforcement officers, who have developed effective crime-reduction strategies over the past two decades that have resulted in a truly remarkable reduction in violent crime rates across the entire nation, including Virginia.

In Virginia, our premier law enforcement agency is the Department of State Police. We and your General Government and Technology Subcommittee are recommending the next step in our continuing effort to address salary compression, by including \$4.0 million each year in Central Appropriations for this purpose. In addition, we are recommending \$2.5 million the first year and \$4.1 million the second year (with 20 new positions for special operations and 14 positions to address cyber-crime), to respond to threats to our security. This represents a total of \$14.6 million over two years to strengthen State Police, and we are also recommending a joint subcommittee to review State Police operational and capital requirements for the future.

There has been a great deal of discussion in recent months about juvenile justice reform, and the subcommittee believes there are several points that should be made to place this discussion in the context of Virginia's experience.

First, our state juvenile correctional facilities are already housing a smaller number of higher-risk juvenile offenders who have complicated treatment needs, compared to several years ago. Last year, out of 384 admissions to state Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities, only eight were for misdemeanors that did not involve assaults, with no prior felonies or misdemeanor assaults. The General Assembly in 2000 (16 years ago) adopted legislation requiring that juveniles admitted to state facilities have either a felony or four separate Class 1 misdemeanors. We are ahead of many states in this regard.

Second, our state juvenile correctional facilities now perform a function that was served by the former Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation until the early 1990's, when that department closed its adolescent units at Central and Eastern State Hospitals - as a result of budget cuts. Today, juveniles that would have been treated in those state mental health facilities are instead committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice - because there are few alternatives available to our judges. We know, for example, that 77 percent of juveniles committed to DJJ state facilities need mental health treatment.

Third, we know the recidivism rate for juveniles committed to our state facilities is high - with almost half re-incarcerated within three years. In a recent study conducted at our request, the Departments of Corrections and Juvenile Justice found that almost one-fourth of the DJJ graduates over the past ten years are now housed in the Department of Corrections.

Almost every state has reduced its juvenile offender population over the past decade, and Virginia is no exception. However, few states have done more than Virginia to reduce their juvenile facility population while achieving lower crime rates and recidivism.

Some states that report lower recidivism or lower facility costs are in fact sending more of their juvenile offenders to adult prison than Virginia has traditionally done. And many states are only now realizing that they have held far too many lower-risk offenders in expensive state facilities – and this realization is driving juvenile justice reform in these states.

We can do more, but we do have to be mindful of the limits of our fiscal and debt capacity. The subcommittee commends the Department of Juvenile Justice for stepping forward with innovative solutions to replace the two remaining state juvenile correctional centers. However, we did not recommend to your Capital Outlay Subcommittee that the full request of \$90 million in bond authority for building two new facilities be included in Senate Bill 731. Instead, we recommended planning (through working drawings) for one facility. This would be a joint state-local project in the City of Chesapeake, which would include a total of 112 beds (64 state beds and 48 local beds), and it would replace the city's old detention center as well as provide much-needed secure state beds in Hampton Roads, where we currently have no state facility beds.

We also support closing one of the two remaining juvenile correctional centers, and reallocating the savings to community placements, including beds in secure local and regional detention facilities and private residential facilities and treatment programs where appropriate.

We do not support planning for a second facility at this time. Instead, we recommend language in the budget directing the Departments of Juvenile Justice, Corrections, and Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to work together to chart a future course for providing services for juveniles before the court who have committed serious offenses, and who also present serious mental health and other treatment needs. We will need to develop a concept that breaks through traditional agency boundaries. The first question is how we can best provide secure facilities for the future at the centrally-located campus in Chesterfield County, which is ideally situated in Central Virginia. However, we should also consider the need for juvenile justice facilities in coordination with plans for the provision of adolescent behavioral health services in the broader context of state behavioral health facilities and community services boards.

This is a challenging subject, on which your subcommittee will continue to work during the interim towards solutions that can improve outcomes in the future, including lower recidivism, lower adult correctional costs, and improved public safety.

Mr. Chairmen, this completes the report of your subcommittee.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Honorable Ryan McDougle, Chairman

The Honorable Janet D. Howell

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas

The Honorable Charles W. Carrico

The Honorable Mark D. Obenshain

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

(Proposed Amendments to SB 29 and SB 30, As Introduced, 2016 Session, General Funds unless otherwise noted)

Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security		SB 29	SB 30		
		FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	Biennium
1	Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control				
2	Authorize Board to open stores on New Years Day and Sundays at noon (See Part 3 GF revenue impact)		NGF	NGF	NGF
3	GOV: Cost of Goods Sold (adds \$15.0 million NGF in FY 2017, \$30.0 million NGF in FY 2018)		NGF	NGF	NGF
4	Department of Corrections				
5	Corrections Special Reserve Fund: Section 30-19.1:4 impact of legislation with state-responsible corrections bedspace fiscal impact				
6	SB 49 (Howell) - Protective orders; prohibition against possessing a firearm		\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
7	SB 354 (Deeds) - Sexual crimes against minors; statute of limitations		\$50,000		\$50,000
8	SB 715 (Edwards) - Voluntary background checks at gun shows		\$50,000		\$50,000
9	DOC: Remove funding for Corrections Special Reserve Fund in introduced budget		(\$300,000)		(\$300,000)
10	Reverse Medicaid expansion in the Department of Corrections		\$9,865,826	\$24,719,813	\$34,585,639
11	Adjust growth assumption in inmate medical services costs (4.0% in FY 2018 over 2017)		\$0	(\$2,800,000)	(\$2,800,000)
12	Open Culpeper facility for women in July 2017 (provides \$6.8 m in FY 2017, \$21.7 m in FY 2018)		(\$10,285,427)	(\$583,409)	(\$10,868,836)
13	Reduce correctional officer vacancies (provides total of \$3 million each year)		\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
14	GOV: Transfer funding and positions to correct program (\$2.2 million, 11 FTE each year = net zero)		\$0	\$0	\$0
15	Phase-in new mental health positions		(\$200,000)	\$0	(\$200,000)
16	Adjust behavioral corrections program to require that inmates have sentences of 4 instead of 3 years		Language		
17	Department of Criminal Justice Services				\$0
18	Phase-in proposed increase in community corrections (provides \$1.5 m in FY 2017; 2.0 m in FY 2018)		(\$500,000)	\$0	(\$500,000)
19	Adjust proposed increase of four positions (eliminates 2 of 4 proposed FTE)		(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)	(\$400,000)
20	Sexual Assault Crisis Centers (provides total of \$1 million each year)		\$617,500	\$617,500	\$1,235,000
21	Regional Criminal Justice Academy in Middletown (no additional funds)		Language		
22	Regional Criminal Justice Academies (provides total of \$1.0 million GF each year)		\$504,528	\$504,528	\$1,009,056
23	Drive to Work (provides \$50,000 GF each year)		(\$25,000)	(\$25,000)	(\$50,000)
24	Department of Emergency Management				
25	Purchase radios using MELP (Language: requires radios to be inter-operable with STARS)		(\$258,000)	\$42,000	(\$216,000)
26	Waterford Foundation		\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
27	Department of Forensic Science				\$0
28	Seek NGF grant support for PERK kits analysis (Language)		Language		
29	Department of Juvenile Justice				\$0
30	Planning for juvenile facilities	Language	Language		
31	Postpone technical correction in calculation of block grant to local detention facilities		(\$759,820)	\$0	(\$759,820)
32	Department of State Police				\$0
33	Additional State Troopers/Special Ops (10 FTE in FY 2017, total of 20 FTE in FY 2018; language)		\$1,500,000	\$2,400,000	\$3,900,000
34	Restoration of Rights (eliminates 3 proposed FTE)		(\$180,801)	(\$197,237)	(\$378,038)
35	Blackstone Training Facility (eliminates 2nd yr increase of 9 FTE; adds \$100,000 NGF in FY 2018)		\$0	(\$1,200,000)	(\$1,200,000)
36	Phase-in cyber-crime positions (provides \$0.7 million first year, \$1.4 million second year)		(\$700,000)	\$0	(\$700,000)
37	Eliminate proposed tip line		(\$50,000)	(\$50,000)	(\$100,000)
38					
39	TOTAL EXPENDITURES (Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security)	\$0	\$228,806	\$24,228,195	\$24,457,001
40					

Report of the Subcommittee on Public Safety

	<u>SB 29</u>	<u>SB 30</u>		
	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>Biennium</u>
Office of Veterans and Defense Affairs				
Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs				
47	(\$50,000)	(\$350,000)	(\$350,000)	(\$700,000)
48		\$343,842	\$0	\$343,842
49		Language		
50		Language		
51	Language			
Department of Veterans Services				
53		\$177,906	\$177,906	\$355,812
54	Language	Language		
55		Language		
56		(\$687,684)	\$0	(\$687,684)
57				
58				
59	(\$50,000)	(\$515,936)	(\$172,094)	(\$688,030)
60				
61				
General Assembly				
63		Language		
Treasury Board				
65				
Central Appropriations				
67				
Part 3: Transfers				
69		Language		
70		Language		
71	Language			
72	Language	Language		
Part 4: Positions and Employment				
74		Language		
Revenue Page Adjustments				
76	\$3,800,000	\$4,700,000	\$9,600,000	\$14,300,000
77	\$0	\$728,070	\$728,070	\$1,456,140
78	\$64,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
79	\$180,000	\$280,000	\$600,000	\$880,000
80				
81				
82	\$4,044,000	\$5,708,070	\$10,928,070	\$16,636,140

Joint Subcommittee on State Police

Legislative Department

General Assembly of Virginia

Language

Language:

Page 10, after line 23, insert:

"S. The Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees shall each appoint four members from their respective committees to a Joint Subcommittee on State Police Operations and Capital Requirements to review the current and future requirements for the Department of State Police. The joint subcommittee shall review statewide staffing standards, performance measures, evaluation studies, and general and nongeneral fund sources and requirements for field operations, the bureau of criminal investigation, the emergency operations and fusion center, communications and information technology, the proposed new special operations division, training facilities, requirements and standards, agency administration and support services, and other related topics as the joint subcommittee may deem appropriate. The joint subcommittee shall also review the capital outlay plan for current and future facility requirements for the department. The joint subcommittee shall provide an interim report to the respective committees by September 30, 2016, and a final report by September 30, 2017."

Explanation:

(This amendment establishes a joint subcommittee of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees to review the operational and capital requirements for the Department of State Police.)

State Share of Regional Jail Projects

Finance

Treasury Board

Language

Language:

Page 227, line 10, strike "1,759,780" and insert "879,890".

Page 227, line 11, strike "2,139,464" and insert "1,069,732".

Explanation:

(This amendment adjusts the Commonwealth's share of approved costs for certain

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capital projects at the Hampton Roads Regional Jail and the Piedmont Regional Jail. This adjustment reflects the change in policy adopted by the 2015 General Assembly, to the effect that all jail capital projects approved by the Governor on or after July 1, 2015, are reimbursed at 25 percent of the approved capital cost, consistent with Senate Bill 1049 of the 2015 Session.)

Item 387 #1s

ABC Sunday and New Year's Day Sales

Public Safety and Homeland Security	FY16-17	FY17-18	
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000	NGF

Language:

Page 328, line 22, strike "\$643,469,809" and insert "\$645,569,809".

Page 328, line 22, strike "\$644,924,228" and insert "\$647,024,228".

Page 328, after line 41, insert:

"D. Notwithstanding § 4.1-120, Code of Virginia, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board may open certain government stores, as determined by the Board, for the sale of alcoholic beverages on New Year's Day and on Sundays after 12:00 p.m. noon."

Explanation:

(This amendment authorizes the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to open stores on New Year's Day and for an additional hour on Sundays. The increase in sales resulting from this change is estimated at \$2,100,000 NGF each year. Companion amendments to the Revenue Page and to Part 3 Transfers capture an estimated increase of \$728,070 each year in net profits for the general fund.)

Item 398 #1s

Regional Criminal Justice Academy (Middletown)

Public Safety and Homeland Security

Department of Criminal Justice Services

Language

Language:

Page 337, after line 48, insert:

"c. Notwithstanding B.1.b. of this Item, the Board of Criminal Justice Services may approve a new criminal justice academy serving the Counties of Clarke, Frederick, and Warren; the City of Winchester; the Towns of Berryville, Front Royal, Middletown, Stephens City and

Strasburg; the Northwestern Adult Detention Center; and, the Frederick County Emergency Communications Center, to be supported with local funds, consistent with a written agreement which shall be provided to the Board between the local governing bodies, chief executive officers, and chief law enforcement officers of the aforementioned localities and the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy. No additional state funds are provided from this Item for the new academy serving the aforementioned jurisdictions."

Explanation:

(This amendment authorizes the Board of Criminal Justice Services to approve a new criminal justice training academy, which will be supported with local funds, serving the Counties of Clarke, Frederick, and Warren; the City of Winchester; the Towns of Berryville, Front Royal, Middletown, Stephens City, and Strasburg; the Northwestern Adult Detention Center; and, the Frederick County Emergency Communications Center. The language conditions this approval on the receipt by the Board of Criminal Justice Services of a written agreement approving the creation of this new regional academy between the local governing bodies, chief executive officers, and chief law enforcement officers of the jurisdictions to be served by the new academy and the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy. These jurisdictions are currently served by a satellite campus of the Rappahannock regional academy in Middletown. No additional state funds are to be provided for the new regional academy.)

Item 405 #1s

VDEM Inter-operable Radios (MELP)

Public Safety and Homeland Security	FY16-17	FY17-18
Department of Emergency Management	(\$258,000)	\$42,000 GF

Language:

Page 343, line 36, strike "\$8,680,619" and insert "\$8,422,619".

Page 343, line 36, strike "\$7,166,921" and insert "\$7,208,921".

Page 344, line 42, after "general fund" insert "and \$225,000 in the first year from nongeneral funds".

Page 344, after line 45, insert:

"J. Included in this appropriation is \$42,000 each year to replace radios for regional coordinators, hazardous materials officers, disaster response and recovery officers, and other regional staff. The radios shall be inter-operable with the State Agencies Radio System (STARS), and shall be acquired through the Master Equipment Lease Program."

Explanation:

(This amendment adds the nongeneral fund appropriation for upgrading the Voice Over Internet Protocol telecommunications system at Department of Emergency Management

headquarters and at the Virginia Emergency Operations Center. This amendment also adjusts the funding for replacement of VDEM radios by eliminating the proposed amount of \$300,000 the first year, and instead providing \$42,000 each year from the general fund to acquire radios using the Master Equipment Lease Program of the Department of the Treasury. The language requires that the equipment be inter-operable with the State Agencies Radio System.)

Item 410 #1s

PERK Kits

Public Safety and Homeland Security

Department of Forensic Science

Language

Language:

Page 346, after line 39, insert:

"C. The Department of Forensic Science, in cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General, shall pursue funding opportunities including federal grants to ensure that Physical Evidence Recovery Kits, associated with sexual assault reports or other investigations, which were collected but not submitted to the Department between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2016, are analyzed."

Explanation:

(This amendment directs the Department of Forensic Science to seek nongeneral fund support for the analysis of Physical Evidence Recovery Kits.)

Item 415 #1s

Planning for Juvenile Facilities

Public Safety and Homeland Security

Department of Juvenile Justice

Language

Language:

Page 349, strike lines 49-52 and insert:

"The Director, Department of Juvenile Justice, (the "Department") shall develop a transformation plan to provide more effective and efficient services for juveniles, using data-based decision-making, that is designed to improve outcomes, including reduced recidivism, and to reduce the number of juveniles housed in state-operated juvenile correctional centers, consistent with public safety. Prior to implementation, the plan shall be approved by the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security. A progress report assessing the impact

and results of the plan and related actions shall be provided to the Secretaries of Public Safety and Homeland Security and Health and Human Resources, the Director, Department of Planning and Budget, the Chairman of the Virginia Commission on Youth, and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees by October 1 of each year. The annual progress report shall include, but is not limited to, assessing juvenile offender recidivism rates, changes in commitment rates and orders by the court, the fiscal and operational impact on local juvenile programs, including regional and local detention facilities, group homes and private placements, and the mental health and other treatment requirements of the state- and local-responsible juvenile offender population. The report shall also identify the use of any savings redirected as a result of the transformation, including amounts expended for placements in local and regional detention facilities, private placements, and treatment services, including the numbers of juveniles receiving each specific service. The report should also include the average length of stay for juveniles in each placement option.

2. To".

Page 350, line 2, strike "2" and insert "3".

Page 350, strike lines 13-22.

Page 350, after line 25, insert:

"5. The Departments of Juvenile Justice, Corrections, and Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, shall convene an inter-agency task force to chart a future course for the Commonwealth in the provision of appropriate services for youth before the juvenile court who have committed serious offenses and who also present serious mental health and other complex treatment challenges. The task force shall develop a concept for the future provision of secure facilities for state-responsible juvenile offenders at the Chesterfield County campus, in coordination with plans for the future provision of adolescent behavioral health services in state behavioral health facilities and in the community. The task force shall address future capital requirements, including the renovation, redesign or replacement of existing facilities at the Chesterfield County campus and at state behavioral health facilities, which may be necessary to incorporate improved treatment for juvenile offenders who also have serious and complex mental health and other treatment needs. The task force shall also consider the need for appropriate alternatives for less serious offenders, the future role of state behavioral health facilities in providing adolescent treatment services, and the roles that the juvenile court services units, community services boards, and the private sector should play in juvenile corrections and mental health. The task force shall present an interim report by November 1, 2016, and a final report by July 15, 2017, to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Virginia Commission on Youth and the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees."

Explanation:

(This amendment clarifies proposed language authorizing the transformation of Virginia's state juvenile correctional centers and the reallocation of the resulting savings into alternative placements for juvenile offenders. The language also creates an inter-agency task force to

consider future needs for secure facilities at the Chesterfield County campus for serious juvenile offenders who have complex mental health and other treatment needs, in coordination with the future role of state mental health facilities for adolescents. Senate Bill 731 authorizes planning for a new facility in the City of Chesapeake to replace current state-operated beds and to replace the existing juvenile detention center for the City of Chesapeake.)

Item 423 #2s

State Police Special Operations Division

Public Safety and Homeland Security	FY16-17	FY17-18	
Department of State Police	\$1,500,000	\$2,400,000	GF
	10.00	20.00	FTE

Language:

Page 353, line 41, strike "\$259,530,675" and insert "\$261,030,675".

Page 353, line 41, strike "\$259,525,668" and insert "\$261,925,668".

Page 355, after line 41, insert:

"P. Included within this appropriation is \$1,500,000 the first year and \$2,400,000 the second year and ten positions the first year and 20 positions the second year from the general fund, to establish a special operations division. The first two tactical teams established under this division will serve the fourth and sixth divisions."

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$1,500,000 and ten positions the first year and \$2,400,000 and 20 positions the second year from the general fund for the Department of State Police to establish a new special operations division.)

Item 424 #1s

Driver Training Facility at Blackstone

Public Safety and Homeland Security	FY16-17	FY17-18	
Department of State Police	\$0	(\$1,200,000)	GF
	\$0	\$120,000	NGF
	0.00	-9.00	FTE

Language:

Page 355, line 42, strike "\$24,787,961" and insert "\$23,707,961".

Page 356, lines 15 through 17, strike:

"Any regulations or guidelines necessary to implement or change the amount of the fee may be adopted without complying with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.)."

Page 356, line 19, after "Fund." insert:

"The Department shall provide a report on the proposed fee structure and the utilization of the fees for the facility to the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, the Director, Department of Planning and Budget, and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees by October 15, 2016."

Explanation:

(This amendment reduces the proposed second year increase for the new Department of State Police training facility at Blackstone by \$1.2 million from the general fund and provides a dedicated special fund appropriation of \$120,000 in the second year. With this adjustment, the additional funding for the new facility includes \$1,198,779 the first year and \$1,890,705 the second year from the general fund and nine positions each year, plus the dedicated special funds in the second year. This amendment also removes a proposed exemption from the normal requirements of the Administrative Process Act, concerning the fees to be charged for the use of the new facility by local and other law enforcement agencies. It is anticipated that the dedicated special funds from fees generated through the use of the facility will help support some of the additional costs of operating the facility. Finally, this amendment calls for a report on the proposed fee structure.

Item 466 #1h

Work Group to Review JLARC Findings

Veterans and Defense Affairs	FY16-17	FY17-18
Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs	\$343,842	\$0 GF

Language:

Page 393, line 3, strike "\$1,083,052" and insert "\$1,426,894".

Page 393, line 8, before "Included" insert "A. "

Page 393, after line 10, insert:

"B.1. There is hereby established a working group comprised of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, and the Director, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, or their designees. The working group shall be chaired by the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs.

2. The working group shall conduct a review of mental health and rehabilitative services for veterans, and make recommendations for efficient and effective coordination and monitoring of services for veterans in Virginia, as set forth in § 2.2- 2001.1. This review fulfills the requirements of recommendations 13 and 14 of the 2015 JLARC report "Operation and Performance of the Department of Veterans Services."

3. The working group shall conduct a rigorous and objective review to (i) determine the

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nature of monitoring and coordination needed by veterans in order to receive adequate and timely mental health and rehabilitative services, (ii) measure the current and projected need for coordination and monitoring of mental health and rehabilitative services for veterans; (iii) measure the current and projected capacity of private, federal, state, regional, and local entities to provide monitoring and coordination of mental health and rehabilitative services to veterans, by geographic region of the state; (iv) assess the extent of any gap between need and capacity; and (v) review and report how other states coordinate and monitor mental health and rehabilitative services for veterans. The review of other states shall include an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of models used by other states.

4. After thoroughly considering alternative approaches, the working group shall recommend how the state can best monitor and coordinate mental health and rehabilitative services to ensure that veterans receive adequate and timely mental health and rehabilitative services as required by statute. The recommendations should include (vi) organizational structures, programs, partnerships, staff responsibilities, staff qualifications, and licensure; (vii) statutory or regulatory changes, as necessary; and (viii) estimates of the cost to the state and local governments of implementing these recommendations.

5. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide technical or other assistance to the working group, upon request.

6. The working group shall direct the appropriate agency staff to develop a detailed implementation plan for the Virginia Veteran and Families Support program, and present the plan to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission no later than November 15, 2016.

7. Upon unanimous request from the members of the working group, the Director, Department of Planning and Budget, shall transfer up to \$343,842 from the general fund amounts included within this Item to the Department of Veterans Services for the purposes of implementing the recommendations of the working group for the Virginia Veteran and Families Support program."

Explanation:

(This amendment creates a working group to be chaired by the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs to study JLARC findings related to the Virginia Veteran and Families Support program, to develop a detailed implementation plan based upon its work, and to present its plan to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission no later than November 15, 2016. Upon unanimous request, the working group may request the Director, Department of Planning and Budget to transfer up to \$343,842 the first year from the general fund to the Department of Veterans Services to implement the recommendations of the work group. A companion amendment to Item 470 transfers these funds from the Department of Veterans Services to this Item, pending the recommendations of the working group.)

Item 466 #2s

Veterans Care Centers

See LIS Budget Website for Complete Set of Adopted Amendments When Posted

Veterans and Defense Affairs

Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs

Language

Language:

Page 393, at the beginning of line 8, insert "A."

Page 393, after line 10, insert:

"B. The Secretary shall consider the feasibility of utilizing the public-private partnership concept in the development of the two new veterans care centers in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia, with the assistance of the Department of General Services. A report on this review shall be provided to the Governor, the Director, Department of Planning and Budget, and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees by September 1, 2016."

Explanation:

(This amendment directs the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs to review the feasibility of utilizing the public-private partnership concept in the development of the two new veterans care centers in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia.)

Item 467 #1s

Extend Encroachment Program to June 30, 2018

Veterans and Defense Affairs

Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs

Language

Language:

Page 393, line 19, after "Act." insert "The recurring, dedicated special (nongeneral) fund component of the U.S. Navy Master Jet Base and Auxiliary Landing Field encroachment mitigation program is continued through June 30, 2018."

Explanation:

(This amendment clarifies that the nongeneral fund component of the U.S. Navy Master Jet Base and Auxiliary Landing Field encroachment mitigation program is continued through the 2016-18 biennium.)

Item 468 #1s

VMSDEP Language

Veterans and Defense Affairs

See LIS Budget Website for Complete Set of Adopted Amendments When Posted

Department of Veterans Services

Language

Language:

Page 393, line 43, strike "child" and insert "surviving spouse or child".

Explanation:

(This amendment adjusts the language concerning the limitation of higher education benefits under the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program to reflect the inclusion of both surviving spouses and children.)

Item 470 #1s

Incentives to Hire Veterans

Veterans and Defense Affairs

Department of Veterans Services

Language

Language:

Page 394, lines 27 and 28, strike "and has been unemployed for at least one year".

Explanation:

(This amendment removes the requirement which was proposed in the budget as introduced that veterans hired under the incentive grant program must have been unemployed for at least one year in order for the employer to qualify for the incentive grant of \$1,000 for each veteran hired. A companion amendment to Item 461 in Senate Bill 29 makes the same change for Fiscal Year 2016.)
