



Report of the Subcommittee on
Public Safety & Claims

Senate Finance &
Appropriations Committee
Virginia General Assembly

February 18, 2024



SENATE OF VIRGINIA
Senate Finance & Appropriations Committee

Report of the Subcommittee on Public Safety & Claims
The Honorable Adam P. Ebbin, Chair
February 18, 2024

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Public Safety & Claims Subcommittee has reviewed the Governor's proposed budget for the agencies of Public Safety and Homeland Security and Veterans and Defense Affairs.

A major focus of the Subcommittee was to build on previous initiatives to make Virginia's communities safer. It is critical to invest in both law enforcement and violence prevention and intervention. To accomplish these goals, the Subcommittee recommends an additional \$33.0 million to expand the Safer Communities Program, support youth development programs for high-risk youth, and increase aid to local police departments in our communities. As we invest in services to make our communities safer, we must also ensure support for victims of crime. The Subcommittee report includes nearly \$12.0 million to sustain the statewide network of victim services agencies.

The Subcommittee also remains committed to improving conditions in state correctional facilities for inmates and employees. After adjusting the Department of Corrections' budget for the declining inmate population, the Subcommittee recommends \$15.1 million to limit the use of isolated confinement, update infrastructure in state facilities, and promote a correctional officer career pipeline.

Lastly, the Subcommittee report includes resources to establish a retail cannabis market which ensures these products will be regulated with consumer safety in mind, pursuant to Senate Bill 448.

Madam Chair, this concludes the Public Safety & Claims Subcommittee report. I hope it will be the pleasure of the Committee to adopt our amendments.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Honorable Adam P. Ebbin, Chair

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas

The Honorable David W. Marsden

The Honorable Ryan T. McDougale

The Honorable Todd E. Pillion

The Honorable Ghazala F. Hashmi

Report of the Subcommittee on Public Safety and Claims
(Recommended Amendments to SB 29 and 30, as Introduced)

General Fund

	Amendment	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Biennium
1	Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security				
2	Civilian Action Response Team Study		<i>Language</i>		<i>Language</i>
3	Cannabis Control Authority				
4	Move Cannabis Control Authority to Independent Agencies (GF)		\$ (4,502,242)	\$ (4,502,242)	\$ (9,004,484)
5	Department of Corrections				
6	Correctional Officer Career Pipeline Pilot		\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000
7	Restore DMV Connect Reentry Program		\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 400,000
8	Adjust Wastewater Operating Funding to Bond Defeasance		\$ (531,902)	\$ (531,902)	\$ (1,063,804)
9	Reverse Vacant Positions Salary Increase		\$ (2,918,065)	\$ (2,918,065)	\$ (5,836,130)
10	Phase In Lawrenceville Correctional Center Staffing	\$ (128,016)	\$ (1,556,400)	\$ -	\$ (1,556,400)
11	Adjust Correctional Officer Career Progression Plan		\$ (4,813,354)	\$ (4,813,354)	\$ (9,626,708)
12	Isolated Confinement Restrictions (SB 719)		\$ 3,200,000	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 6,400,000
13	Air Conditioning DOC Facility		\$ 7,669,280	\$ -	\$ 7,669,280
14	Corrections Special Reserve Fund Required Deposits		\$ 759,816	\$ -	\$ 759,816
15	Sentence Modifications (SB 427 & SB 696)		\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 400,000
16	Reverse DOC Administrative Reduction		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
17	Adjust Earned Sentence Credit Positions		\$ (1,990,563)	\$ (1,990,563)	\$ (3,981,126)
18	Adjust Electronic Health Records Appropriation		\$ (5,293,666)	\$ (5,293,666)	\$ (10,587,332)
19	Redirect Funding for Inmate Transportation		\$ (500,000)	\$ (500,000)	\$ (1,000,000)
20	Technical: Board of Local and Regional Jails Approval Process		<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>
21	DOC Staffing Study		<i>Language</i>		<i>Language</i>
22	Department of Criminal Justice Services				
23	Expand Safer Communities Program		\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 7,000,000
24	Aid to Local Police Departments ("599")		\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 20,000,000
25	Victim Witness Grant Program		\$ 1,324,229	\$ 1,324,229	\$ 2,648,458
26	Sexual and Domestic Violence Agencies Grants		\$ 2,068,114	\$ 2,068,114	\$ 4,136,228
27	Victim Services Grants		\$ 2,700,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 5,200,000
28	Law Enforcement Officer Decertification Process (SB 88)		\$ 262,000	\$ 262,000	\$ 524,000
29	Firearm Safety Training (SB 522)		\$ 108,750	\$ 108,750	\$ 217,500
30	At-Risk Youth Development Programs		\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 6,000,000
31	Law-Enforcement Training Standards (SB 547)		\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ 125,000
32	Pretrial Services Expansion		\$ 221,250	\$ 221,250	\$ 442,500
33	Adjust Law Enforcmenet Recruitment Proposal		\$ (8,000,000)	\$ -	\$ (8,000,000)
34	Study Expansion of Court-Appointed Special Advocate Program		<i>Language</i>		<i>Language</i>
35	Digital Mapping Program Higher Education		<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>
36	Sex Trafficked Youth Pilot Program		<i>Language</i>		<i>Language</i>
37	Maintain Eligibility for Hate Crime Grants		<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>

38	Virginia Department of Emergency Management				
39	Emergency Communications Equipment		\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ 125,000
40	Adjust Disaster Logistics Warehouse		\$ (271,909)	\$ (271,909)	\$ (543,818)
41	Department of Fire Programs				
42	Adjust Fire Marshal Increase		\$ (217,000)	\$ (217,000)	\$ (434,000)
43	Department of Forensic Science				\$ -
44	Impaired Driving Drug Testing		\$ 238,739	\$ 196,638	\$ 435,377
45	Technical: DFS Base Budget Fix		\$ (126,752)	\$ (126,752)	\$ (253,504)
46	Department of Juvenile Justice				
47	Evidence-Based Services		<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>
48	Department of State Police				
49	Body-Worn Cameras Virginia State Police		\$ 6,200,000	\$ -	\$ 6,200,000
50	Expungement of Police and Court Records (SB 504)		\$ -	\$ 320,320	\$ 320,320
51	Adjust Background Check Positions		\$ (118,146)	\$ (188,419)	\$ (306,565)
52	Adjust Proposed Fusion Center Positions		\$ (114,095)	\$ (136,915)	\$ (251,010)
53	Adjust Medflight Increase		\$ -	\$ (770,800)	\$ (770,800)
54	State Police Aviation Pilots		\$ 292,050	\$ 292,050	\$ 584,100
55	Adjust Sworn Compensation Increase		\$ (1,537,436)	\$ (1,506,909)	\$ (3,044,345)
56	Technical: VSP Base Budget Fix		\$ (100,314)	\$ (100,314)	\$ (200,628)
57	Voter Registration (SB 300)		\$ 234,360	\$ -	\$ 234,360
58	Subtotal, Public Safety and Homeland Security	\$ (128,016)	\$ 11,536,744	\$ 4,824,541	\$ 16,361,285
59					
60	Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs				
61	Adjust Veterans Care Centers Increase		\$ (14,000,000)	\$ -	\$ (14,000,000)
62	Redirect New Office Costs		\$ (398,660)	\$ (404,841)	\$ (803,501)
63	Redirect Funds for Proposed Education Center		\$ (500,000)	\$ -	\$ (500,000)
64	Redirect Funding for Software Systems		\$ (470,784)	\$ (299,691)	\$ (770,475)
65	Adjust Legal Costs	\$ (312,474)			
66	Remove Proposed Language Regarding Unexpended Balances		<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>
67	National Guard Group Life Insurance Program		<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>
68	Subtotal, Veterans and Defense Affairs	\$ (312,474)	\$ (15,369,444)	\$ (704,532)	\$ (16,073,976)
69	Various Language Amendments	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>
70	Total GF, Public Safety & Claims Subcommittee	\$ (440,490)	\$ (3,832,700)	\$ 4,120,009	\$ 287,309
Nongeneral Fund					
71	Move ABC to Independent Agencies		\$ (1,077,919,601)	\$ (1,127,959,263)	\$ (2,205,878,864)
72	Move CCA to Independent Agencies (NGF)		\$ (908,818)	\$ (908,818)	\$ (1,817,636)
73	DCJS: Jail-Based Opioid Use Reduction Treatment Program		\$ 1,500,000		\$ 1,500,000
74	DCJS: Federal Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Funding	\$ 5,081,671			

Item 388 #1s

Public Safety and Homeland Security

FY24-25

FY25-26

Department of Corrections

\$7,669,280

\$0 GF

Language:

Page 439, line 32, strike "\$926,775,111" and insert "\$934,444,391".

Page 441, after line 30, insert:

"O. Included in the appropriation for this Item is \$7,669,280 the first year from the general fund for air conditioning installation and associated costs in one correctional facility."

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$7.7 million GF the first year to expand air conditioning to an additional adult correctional facility.)

Item 390 #6s

Public Safety and Homeland Security

FY24-25

FY25-26

Department of Corrections

(\$1,990,563)
-25.00

(\$1,990,563) GF
-25.00 FTE

Language:

Page 442, line 11, strike "\$208,269,421" and insert "\$206,278,858".

Page 442, line 11, strike "\$207,829,237" and insert "\$205,838,674".

Explanation:

(This amendment reduces, by nearly \$2.0 million GF each year, funding for positions previously provided to support earned sentence credit implementation. The enhanced earned sentence credits established by Chapter 50, 2020 Special Session I, became effective on July 1, 2022 and were applied retroactively, resulting in a temporary increase in the number of inmates released from adult correctional facilities. As of fall 2023, average monthly inmate releases have declined to their lowest level throughout the past five fiscal years. The reduction includes: (i) 21 currently vacant positions of the 74 provided for earned sentence credit reentry efforts; and (ii) four IT-related positions, of the 12 provided for earned sentence credit implementation, which may be directed to other roles.)

Item 394 #1s

Public Safety and Homeland Security	FY24-25	FY25-26	
Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$1,324,229	\$1,324,229	GF

Language:

Page 447, line 6, strike "\$223,993,666" and insert "\$225,317,895".
 Page 447, line 6, strike "\$227,893,666" and insert "\$229,217,895".
 Page 448, line 8, strike "\$4,664,578" and insert "\$5,988,807".
 Page 448, line 8, strike "\$7,064,578" and insert "\$8,388,807".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$1.3 million GF each year for the Victim Witness Grant Program. The amount is estimated to be sufficient to return grantees to the FY 2023 level of grant funding provided through the Department of Criminal Justice Services.)

Item 394 #2s

Public Safety and Homeland Security	FY24-25	FY25-26	
Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$2,068,114	\$2,068,114	GF

Language:

Page 447, line 6, strike "\$223,993,666" and insert "\$226,061,780".
 Page 447, line 6, strike "\$227,893,666" and insert "\$229,961,780".
 Page 450, line 10, strike "\$2,500,000" and insert "\$4,568,114".
 Page 450, line 11, strike "\$6,000,000" and insert "\$8,068,114".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$2.1 million GF each year for sexual assault crisis centers and domestic violence programs to provide comprehensive services to victims. The amount is estimated to be sufficient to return grantees to the FY 2023 level of grant funding provided through the Department of Criminal Justice Services.)

Item 455 #1s

Veterans and Defense Affairs	FY24-25	FY25-26	
Department of Veterans Services	(\$14,000,000)	\$0	GF

Language:

Page 501, line 45, strike "\$129,467,122" and insert "\$115,467,122".

Page 502, line 2, strike "\$30,500,000" and insert "\$16,500,000".

Page 502, after line 8, insert:

"C. The Department of Veterans Services shall submit a business plan that demonstrates how the veterans care centers will operate using solely nongeneral funds after start-up general fund moneys are exhausted to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees by August 1, 2024."

Explanation:

(This amendment reduces by \$14.0 million GF the first year the proposed funding for Virginia's two new veterans care centers, bringing the total increase to \$16.5 million GF. This amount is estimated to be sufficient to cover start-up operational expenses and account for lower revenue while the new centers phase in residents. Once the veterans care centers reach approximately 90.0 percent capacity, it is expected that the centers would be funded using resident insurance and other payments. State-owned veterans care centers receive higher reimbursement rates than private nursing home providers from most publicly funded programs, including supplemental payments from Medicaid. Budget language directs the Department of Veterans Services to submit a business plan that demonstrates how veterans care centers will operate using solely nongeneral funds after start-up general funds moneys are exhausted to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees by August 1, 2024.)
