



REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & CLAIMS

SENATE FINANCE &
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 22, 2026





Report of the Public Safety and Claims Subcommittee

The Honorable Jennifer B. Boysko, Chair

February 22, 2026

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Public Safety and Claims Subcommittee has reviewed the proposed budget for the agencies of Public Safety and Homeland Security and Veterans and Defense Affairs. The Subcommittee continues to prioritize investments in community violence reduction, victim services, first responders, and prison safety.

The Subcommittee recommends an additional \$25.1 million for grants managed by the Office of Safer Communities for a total of \$98.4 million over the biennium. A recent review by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission found that grants are likely achieving positive outcomes and recommended additional data collection on key metrics. Therefore, the Subcommittee report expands programs to additional high-need localities and maintains funding to continue grant performance evaluation. The Subcommittee also recommends \$4.8 million to increase the availability of court-appointed special advocates, who judges appoint to help speak for abused and neglected children during court proceedings.

The Subcommittee adopts the \$93.8 million proposed in the introduced budget for Virginia State Police personnel and operations, including support for three of the largest trooper training schools in recent history. The third trooper school is delayed until fiscal year 2028 to give the State Police time to provide additional information to the General Assembly about recent increases in personnel expenditures and budget needs.

Another priority for the Subcommittee is improving conditions in Virginia's correctional facilities. To that end, the Subcommittee recommends

\$8.2 million for retention bonuses for employees working in Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice facilities. Funding is also provided for additional body-worn cameras in high-security prisons. These investments support the safety and well-being of correctional officers and incarcerated individuals in the Commonwealth.

Finally, the Subcommittee report provides \$20.0 million for one-time grants to fiscally distressed localities to purchase firefighting vehicles and equipment. Many fire departments are struggling to afford these necessities amidst declining volunteerism and rising costs. This funding will go a long way to help meet the requested fire safety needs of these communities.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

The Honorable Jennifer B. Boysko, Chair

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas

The Honorable Ryan T. McDougale

The Honorable Todd E. Pillion

Report of the Subcommittee on Public Safety & Claims

(Proposed Amendments to SB 30, as Introduced, 2026 Session)

Amendment	General Fund		
	FY 2027	FY 2028	Biennium
1 Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security			
2 Department of Corrections			
3 Facility Staff Retention Bonus	\$ 7,837,000	\$ -	\$ 7,837,000
4 Body-Worn Cameras for High-Security Facilities	\$ 1,605,215	\$ 1,186,075	\$ 2,791,290
5 Software to Improve Inmate Placements	\$ 2,140,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 2,590,000
6 Recruitment Support	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000
7 Legislation (Corrections Special Reserve Fund Deposits, SB 62)	\$ 1,251,627	\$ -	\$ 1,251,627
8 Subtotal, Department of Corrections	\$ 13,133,842	\$ 1,636,075	\$ 14,769,917
9			
10 Department of Criminal Justice Services			
11 Community Violence Reduction Grants	\$ 13,550,000	\$ 11,550,000	\$ 25,100,000
12 Court-Appointed Special Advocates	\$ 2,385,000	\$ 2,385,000	\$ 4,770,000
13 Legislation (SB 182, SB 543, SB 647)	\$ 706,104	\$ 708,614	\$ 1,414,718
14 Adjust School Resource Officer Grants to Reflect Utilization	\$ (4,726,025)	\$ (4,329,560)	\$ (9,055,585)
15 Subtotal, Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$ 11,915,079	\$ 10,314,054	\$ 22,229,133
16			
17 Department of Emergency Management			
18 Legislation (SB 98, SB 635)	\$ 130,000	\$ -	\$ 130,000
19 Defer Emergency Management Operations Funding	\$ (5,000,000)	\$ (7,000,000)	\$ (12,000,000)
20 Regional Approach Emergency Communications Devices	\$ (386,900)	\$ (262,800)	\$ (649,700)
21 Subtotal, Department of Emergency Management	\$ (5,256,900)	\$ (7,262,800)	\$ (12,519,700)
22			
23 Department of Fire Programs			
24 Fire Equipment & Vehicle Grants	\$ 20,000,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000,000
25 Legislation (SB 140)	\$ 188,100	\$ -	\$ 188,100
26 Subtotal, Department of Fire Programs	\$ 20,188,100	\$ -	\$ 20,188,100

Report of the Subcommittee on Public Safety & Claims

(Proposed Amendments to SB 30, as Introduced, 2026 Session)

Amendment	General Fund		
	FY 2027	FY 2028	Biennium
27 Department of Juvenile Justice			
28 Facility Staff Retention Bonus	\$ 376,000	\$ -	\$ 376,000
29 Position Related to State Inspector General Recommendations	\$ 126,403	\$ 126,403	\$ 252,806
30 Subtotal, Department of Juvenile Justice	\$ 502,403	\$ 126,403	\$ 628,806
31			
32 Department of State Police			
33 Modify Third Trooper School to Second Year	\$ (20,641,375)	\$ -	\$ (20,641,375)
34 Missing Persons Alerts	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000
35 Legislation (SB 115, SB 160, SB 542)	\$ 469,215	\$ 406,192	\$ 875,407
36 Subtotal, Department of State Police	\$ (20,072,160)	\$ 506,192	\$ (19,565,968)
37			
38 Various Language & NGF Amendments	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>
39			
40 Total Secretariat of Public Safety and Homeland Security	\$ 20,410,364	\$ 5,319,924	\$ 25,730,288
41			
42 Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs			
43 Department of Veterans Services			
44 Defer Second-Year Veterans Care Center Start-Up Funding	\$ -	\$ (1,556,840)	\$ (1,556,840)
45 Redirect Unconstitutional Appropriation	\$ (300,000)	\$ (300,000)	\$ (600,000)
46 Increase Veterans Support	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000
47 Subtotal, Department of Veterans Services	\$ 200,000	\$ (1,856,840)	\$ (1,656,840)
48			
49 Department of Military Affairs			
50 Defer Fort Pickett Positions	\$ (481,127)	\$ (481,177)	\$ (962,304)
51 Subtotal, Department of Military Affairs	\$ (481,127)	\$ (481,177)	\$ (962,304)
52			
53 Various Language & NGF Amendments	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Language</i>
54			
55 Total Secretariat of Veterans and Defense Affairs	\$ (281,127)	\$ (2,338,017)	\$ (2,619,144)

Item 391 #1s

Public Safety and Homeland Security	FY26-27	FY27-28
Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$125,000	\$0 GF

Language:

Page 469, line 4, strike "\$6,193,054" and insert "\$6,318,054".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$125,000 GF the first year to support implementation of Senate Bill 647, which requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish a model policy for law enforcement operation of unmanned aircraft systems in accordance with state law.)

Item 391 #2s

Public Safety and Homeland Security	FY26-27	FY27-28
Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$453,594 3.00	\$453,594 3.00 GF FTE

Language:

Page 469, line 4, strike "\$6,193,054" and insert "\$6,646,648".

Page 469, line 4, strike "\$6,193,054" and insert "\$6,646,648".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$453,594 GF and 3.0 positions each year to support implementation of Senate Bill 543, which relates to enforcement of marijuana laws in the Commonwealth. The funding would support the bill's requirement that the Department of Criminal Justice Services establish compulsory minimum and in-service training standards for law enforcement officers on enforcement of Virginia's Cannabis Control Act and hemp-related laws.)

Item 394 #2s

Public Safety and Homeland Security	FY26-27	FY27-28
Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$2,385,000	\$2,385,000 GF

Language:

Page 471, line 8, strike "\$233,685,032" and insert "\$236,070,032".

Page 471, line 8, strike "\$231,685,032" and insert "\$234,070,032".

Page 472, line 5, strike "\$1,615,000" and insert "\$4,000,000".

Page 472, line 6, strike "\$1,615,000" and insert "\$4,000,000".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$2.4 million GF each year to increase the total appropriation for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs to \$4.0 million GF each year. CASA provides judges with trained volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children.)

Item 394 #7s

Public Safety and Homeland Security	FY26-27	FY27-28
Department of Criminal Justice Services	\$1,000,000	\$0 NGF

Language:

Page 471, line 8, strike "\$233,685,032" and insert "\$234,685,032".

Page 478, after line 27, insert:

"Y. Included in the appropriation for this item is \$1,000,000 from the Commonwealth Opioid Abatement and Remediation Fund for deposit in the Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Transition Fund."

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$1.0 million NGF the first year from the Commonwealth Opioid Abatement and Remediation Fund for the Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Transition Fund. The Fund was previously provided a one-time appropriation of \$2.0 million NGF in FY 2024. This is a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Health Care.)

Item 405 #1s

Public Safety and Homeland Security	FY26-27	FY27-28
Department of Fire Programs	\$188,100	\$0 GF

Language:

Page 485, line 20, strike "\$11,905,518" and insert "\$12,093,618".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$188,100 GF the first year to support the development of a training program on mental health awareness for fire department personnel that satisfies the criteria in current law and the provisions of Senate Bill 140.)

Item 415 #2s

Public Safety and Homeland Security	FY26-27	FY27-28	
Department of State Police	\$206,682	\$206,682	GF
	1.00	1.00	FTE

Language:

Page 492, line 17, strike "\$135,665,872" and insert "\$135,872,554".

Page 492, line 17, strike "\$135,661,900" and insert "\$135,868,582".

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$206,682 GF and 1.0 position each year to support implementation of Senate Bill 115, which requires the Department of State Police to determine which other states have concealed weapon permit laws that are substantially similar to those in Virginia and adjust permit reciprocity agreements accordingly.)
