

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2000 SESSION

CHAPTER 256

An Act to amend and reenact § 53.1-68 of the Code of Virginia, relating to square footage standards for local facilities.

[S 692]

Approved April 2, 2000

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 53.1-68 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 53.1-68. Minimum standards for local correctional facilities, lock-ups and personnel, health inspections.

A. The Board shall establish minimum standards for the construction, equipment, administration and operation of local correctional facilities, whether heretofore or hereafter established. *However, no minimum standard shall be established that includes square footage requirements in excess of accepted national standards.* The Board or its agents shall conduct at least one unannounced inspection of each local facility annually. However, in those years in which a certification audit of a facility is performed and the facility is in compliance with all the standards, the Board may elect to suspend the unannounced inspection based upon that certification audit and the history of compliance of the facility with the standards promulgated in accordance with this section, except in any year in which there is a change in the administration of a local or regional jail. The Board shall also establish minimum standards for the construction, equipment and operation of lock-ups, whether heretofore or hereafter established. *However, no minimum standard shall be established that includes square footage requirements in excess of accepted national standards.*

B. Standards concerning sanitation in local correctional facilities and procedures for enforcing these standards shall be promulgated by the Board with the advice and guidance of the State Health Commissioner. The Board, in conjunction with the Board of Health, shall establish a procedure for the conduct of at least one unannounced annual health inspection by the State Health Commissioner or his agents of each local correctional facility. The Board and the State Health Commissioner may authorize such other announced or unannounced inspections as they consider appropriate.

C. The Department of Criminal Justice Services, in accordance with § 9-170, shall establish minimum training standards for persons designated to provide courthouse and courtroom security pursuant to the provisions of § 53.1-120 and for persons employed as jail officers or custodial officers under the provisions of this title. The sheriff shall establish minimum performance standards and management practices to govern the employees for whom the sheriff is responsible.

D. The superintendent of a regional jail or jail farm shall establish minimum performance standards and management practices to govern the employees for whom the superintendent is responsible.