

Virginia Retirement System

2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number** SB1361

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron** Reynolds

3. **Committee** Finance

4. **Title** Law Officers' Retirement System; membership.

5. **Summary/Purpose:**

This bill includes in the membership of the Virginia Law Officers' Retirement System (VaLORS) any person who served as a parole officer with the Commonwealth prior to October 1, 1999, and any employee of the Department of Corrections whose normal duties require him regularly to be in the presence of parolees.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are:**

6a. **Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2000-01	-0-		
2001-02	\$1,896,000		GF
2002-03	\$1,965,000		GF

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** Yes

8. **Fiscal implications:** Parole officers were included in the membership of VaLORS when the system was created in 1999. This bill allows employees who were parole officers or had like duties prior to the inception of the plan to become members of the plan, regardless of their current occupation. The bill also allows those Department of Corrections employees who are regularly in the presence of parolees to participate. The cost impact in item 6 is based on estimates from the Department of Corrections. It should be noted that the Department had difficulty in determining the employees who would be affected by this bill.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** VRS and the Department of Corrections.

10. **Technical amendment necessary:** None

11. **Other comments:** There have been 9 bills introduced this year to include 7 new groups of employees under VALORS, not including those including sheriffs and deputies. The fiscal impact of all of the new groups is shown in the table below. In 1999, the General Assembly and Governor approved the establishment of the Virginia Law Officers Retirement System (VALORS) to provide benefits equivalent to state police officers to certain other law enforcement positions. The law was effective October 1, 1999. VRS continues to recommend that before any other groups of employees are included under VALORS, the General Assembly consider the criteria it will use to determine future eligibility. VRS respectfully requests that no favorable action be taken on this bill until a uniform policy for

inclusion is established. Failure to have an established and consistent policy for inclusion of members in VALORS may result in employee initiated suits for inclusion that will leave the Commonwealth with no valid defense.

GROUP	# OF EE'S	ANN. COMP.	FY02 COST	FY03 COST	BILL #
DMV ENF.	61	\$2,897,000	\$626,000	\$651,000	H1659, H1811
JUV. PROB. & PAROLE	742	\$28,528,000	\$6,159,000	\$6,405,746	H1751 S1020
LOTTERY	10	\$517,000	\$112,000	\$116,000	S1020
DOC W/ INMATE CONTACT	4,255	\$142,421,000	\$30,749,000	\$31,979,000	S969 S1283
DOC W/ PAROLEE CONTACT	310	\$7,268,000	\$1,896,000	\$1,965,000	S1361
SPECIAL GAME WARDEN	24	\$1,182,000	\$254,885	\$265,000	H2620

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