

## Compensation Board 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** HB21

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron** Fralin

**3. Committee**

**4. Title** Victims of crime; notice of court hearings.

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

The purpose of the bill is to expand crime victim notification requirements to include release of a prisoner on bail.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** See Item 8.

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** See Item 8.

**8. Fiscal implications:**

Currently, under § 19.2-11.01, sheriffs and regional jail superintendents must notify a victim of a prisoner's release, discharge, escape, name change, or transfer pursuant to the provisions of §§ 53.1-133.02 and 53.1-160, if the victim has submitted his name, address and telephone number in writing. Requiring jailers to notify victims of releases to bail while an accused is awaiting trial adds to existing victim notification responsibilities. The impact of HB21 in its current form is unclear, however, as § 53.1-133.02 defines a prisoner for the purposes of victim notification as a person sentenced to serve more than 30 days of incarceration or detention. Since prisoners released on bail have not yet been convicted and sentenced, the bill may not have the intended effect.

In January 2006, the Virginia Sheriffs Association (VSA) was notified that it has been selected to receive a federal grant to obtain and implement a statewide automated victim notification (SAVIN) system in all of the state's local and regional jails. SAVIN is designed to provide updated prisoner custody information and automatic notification to registered users, such as victims. The VSA has stated that sheriffs should be able to perform the proposed notification function and many others once SAVIN is up and running.

The Compensation Board does not allocate positions to sheriffs for any requirements related to victim notification; therefore, any fiscal impact outside of the federal grant would fall to the localities. The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) provides grant money that funds 102 victim/witness programs around the Commonwealth; DCJS reports that 13 sheriff's offices (out of 67 sheriffs who have jail responsibilities) in Virginia have received grant funds to implement a victim/witness program.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:**

Sheriffs with jail responsibilities  
Regional jail superintendents  
Local governments  
Regional jail boards

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** See Item 11.

**11. Other comments:** As noted in Item 8, the impact of HB21 in its current form is unclear, as existing language in § 19.2-11.01 references the victim notification provisions in § 53.1-133.02. In § 53.1-133.02, a prisoner is defined for the purposes of victim notification as a person sentenced to serve more than 30 days of incarceration or detention. Since prisoners released on bail have not yet been convicted and sentenced, the bill may not have the intended effect.

**Date:** 02/15/06 / MFO

**Document:** SCB s:\legislative action papers\2006 session\fis\hb21e.doc

c: Secretary of Administration