

2008 SESSION

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Rules
on February 1, 2008)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Puller)

Requesting the Department of Corrections to report on the pilot study of the use of a risk assessment instrument for parole determinations, work release programs and other community activities. Report.

WHEREAS, despite the abolition of parole in Virginia in 1994, effective January 1, 1995, significant numbers of persons sentenced prior to that time continue to be eligible for parole; and

WHEREAS, considerations of public safety constitute a significant factor in parole board decisions regarding the release or continued imprisonment of the parole-eligible inmate; and

WHEREAS, currently the Parole Board does not utilize any uniform assessment tool to make determinations regarding the risk an individual poses to society, for the purpose of parole determinations; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Subcommittee Studying the Commonwealth's Program for Prisoner Reentry to Society recommended that the cost and impact of using a uniform risk assessment tool be studied; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections is piloting a risk assessment instrument in three Community Corrections Probation and Parole District Offices and four Correctional Facilities and is reviewing the results of the pilot study; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Department of Corrections be requested to report on the pilot study of the use of a risk assessment instrument for parole determinations, work release programs, and other community activities.

The Director of the Department of Corrections shall submit an executive summary and report of its progress in meeting the requests of this resolution to the Governor, General Assembly, and the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services and the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions no later than the first day of the 2009 Regular Session of the General Assembly. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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