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HOUSE BILL NO. 1254

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 8, 2020

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-304.1, 30-265, and 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 24.2 an article numbered 5, consisting of a section numbered 24.2-314, and by adding a section numbered 53.1-5.2, relating to redistricting; population data; reallocation of prison populations.

Patrons—Price, Hope, Jenkins, Lindsey, Rasoul and Samirah

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 24.2-304.1, 30-265, and 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 24.2 an article numbered 5, consisting of a section numbered 24.2-314, and by adding a section numbered 53.1-5.2 as follows:

§ 24.2-304.1. At-large and district elections; reapportionment and redistricting of districts or wards; limits.

A. Except as otherwise specifically limited by general law or special act, the governing body of each county, city, or town may provide by ordinance for the election of its members on any of the following bases: (i) at large from the county, city, or town; (ii) from single-member or multi-member districts or wards, or any combination thereof; or (iii) from any combination of at-large, single-member, and multi-member districts or wards. A change in the basis for electing the members of the governing body shall not constitute a change in the form of county government.

B. If the members are elected from districts or wards and other than entirely at large from the locality, the districts or wards shall be composed of contiguous and compact territory and shall be so constituted as to give, as nearly as is practicable, representation in proportion to the population of the district or ward. In 1971 and every 10 years thereafter, the governing body of each such locality shall reapportion the representation among the districts or wards, including, if the governing body deems it appropriate, increasing or diminishing the number of such districts or wards, in order to give, as nearly as is practicable, representation on the basis of population.

C. For the purposes of redistricting and reapportioning representation in 2004 2021 and every 10 years thereafter, the governing body of a county, city, or town shall use the most recent decennial population figures for such county, city, or town from the United States Bureau of the Census, which figures are identical to those from the actual enumeration conducted by the United States Bureau of the Census for the apportionment of representatives in the United States House of Representatives, except that the as adjusted by the Division of Legislative Services pursuant to § 24.2-314. The census data for these redistricting and apportionment purposes will not include any population figure that is not allocated to specific census blocks within the Commonwealth, even though that population may have been included in the apportionment population figures of the Commonwealth for the purpose of allocating United States House of Representatives seats among the states. The governing body of any county, city, or town may elect to exclude the adult inmate population of any federal, state, or regional adult correctional facility located in the locality from the population figures used for the purposes of the decennial reapportionment and redistricting. The adult inmate population so excluded shall be based on information provided by the facility as to the adult inmate population at the facility on the date of the decennial census.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of general law or special act, the governing body of a county, city, or town shall not reapportion the representation in the governing body at any time other than that required following the decennial census, except as (i) provided by law upon a change in the boundaries of the county, city, or town that results in an increase or decrease in the population of the county, city, or town of more than one percent, (ii) the result of a court order, (iii) the result of a change in the form of government, or (iv) the result of an increase or decrease in the number of districts or wards other than at-large districts or wards. The foregoing provisions notwithstanding, the governing body subsequent to the decennial redistricting may adjust district or ward boundaries in order that the boundaries might coincide with state legislative or congressional district boundaries; however, no adjustment shall affect more than five percent of the population of a ward or district or 250 persons, whichever is lesser. If districts created by a reapportionment enacted subsequent to a decennial reapportionment are invalid under the provisions of this subsection, the immediately preexisting districts shall remain in force and effect until validly reapportioned in accordance with law.

INTRODUCED

HB1254

Article 5.

Population Data.

§ 24.2-314. Population data; reallocation of prison populations.

A. Persons incarcerated in state and local correctional facilities, as those terms are defined in § 53.1-1, shall be counted and reallocated for redistricting and reapportionment purposes in accordance with the provisions of this section and the following:

1. A person incarcerated in a state or local correctional facility whose legal residence prior to entering custody was located within the Commonwealth shall be deemed to reside at such residence.

2. A person incarcerated in a state or local correctional facility whose legal residence prior to entering custody was located outside of the Commonwealth or whose legal residence prior to entering custody cannot be determined shall be deemed to reside at the location of the facility in which he is incarcerated.

B. By July 1 of any year in which the decennial census is taken, the Department of Corrections and the Board of Corrections shall provide to the Division of Legislative Services, in a format specified by the Division of Legislative Services, the following information for each person who was incarcerated in a state or local correctional facility on April 1 of that year:

1. A unique identifier, other than his name or offender identification number, assigned by the Department of Corrections or the Board of Corrections for this purpose;

2. His last known residential street address prior to incarceration, or other legal residence, if known;

3. His race, his ethnicity as identified by him, and whether he is 18 years of age or older; and

4. The street address of the correctional facility in which he was incarcerated on April 1 of that year.

C. The Division of Legislative Services shall prepare adjusted population data, including race and ethnicity data, in a manner that reflects the inclusion of incarcerated persons in the population count of the locality in which he is deemed to reside pursuant to subdivision A 1 or 2.

This adjusted population data shall be used for purposes of redistricting and reapportionment and shall be the basis for congressional, state Senate, House of Delegates, and local government election districts.

D. The Division of Legislative Services shall make the adjusted population data available no later than 30 days following receipt of population data from the United States Bureau of the Census pursuant to P.L. 94-171. In making this data available, the Division of Legislative Services shall ensure no information regarding a specific incarcerated person's last known place of residence is made public.

§ 30-265. Reapportionment of congressional and state legislative districts; United States Census population counts.

For the purposes of redrawing the boundaries of the congressional, state Senate, and House of Delegates districts after the United States Census for the year 2000 2020 and every 10 years thereafter, the General Assembly shall use the population data provided by the United States Bureau of the Census identical to those from the actual enumeration conducted by the Bureau for the apportionment of the Representatives of the United States House of Representatives following the United States decennial census, except that the as adjusted by the Division of Legislative Services pursuant to § 24.2-314. The census data used for this apportionment purpose shall not include any population figure which is not allocated to specific census blocks within the Commonwealth, even though that population may have been included in the apportionment population figures of the Commonwealth for the purpose of allocating United States House of Representatives seats among the states.

§ 53.1-5.2. Compilation of certain data for redistricting purposes.

A. The Board shall direct the sheriffs of all local jails and the jail superintendents of all regional jails to provide to it, no later than May 1 of any year in which the decennial census is taken, information regarding each person incarcerated in a local or regional jail on April 1 of that year. Such information shall include, for each person incarcerated, (i) his last known residential street address prior to incarceration, or other legal residence, if known; (ii) his race, his ethnicity as identified by him, and whether he is 18 years of age or older; and (iii) the street address of the correctional facility in which he was incarcerated on April 1 of that year. Upon receipt of such information, the Board shall assign to each person a unique identifier, other than his name or offender identification number.

B. Pursuant to § 24.2-314, the Board shall provide to the Division of Legislative Services, not later than July 1 of any year in which the decennial census is taken and in a format specified by the Division of Legislative Services, the information specified in subsection A, including the Board-assigned unique identifier.

§ 53.1-10. Powers and duties of Director.

The Director shall be the chief executive officer of the Department and shall have the following duties and powers:

1. To supervise and manage the Department and its system of state correctional facilities;

2. To implement the standards and goals of the Board as formulated for local and community

121 correctional programs and facilities and lock-ups;

122 3. To employ such personnel and develop and implement such programs as may be necessary to
123 carry out the provisions of this title, subject to Chapter 29 (§ 2.2-2900 et seq.) of Title 2.2, and within
124 the limits of appropriations made therefor by the General Assembly;

125 4. To establish and maintain a general system of schools for persons committed to the institutions
126 and community-based programs for adults as set forth in § 53.1-67.9. Such system shall include, as
127 applicable, elementary, secondary, postsecondary, career and technical education, adult, and special
128 education schools.

129 a. The Director shall employ a Superintendent who will oversee the operation of educational and
130 vocational programs in all institutions and community-based programs for adults as set forth in
131 § 53.1-67.9 operated by the Department. The Department shall be designated as a local education agency
132 (LEA) but shall not be eligible to receive state funds appropriated for direct aid to public education.

133 b. When the Department employs a teacher licensed by the Board of Education to provide instruction
134 in the schools of the correctional centers, the Department of Human Resource Management shall
135 establish salary schedules for the teachers which endeavor to be competitive with those in effect for the
136 school division in which the correctional center is located.

137 c. The Superintendent shall develop a functional literacy program for inmates testing below a
138 selected grade level, which shall be at least at the twelfth grade level. The program shall include
139 guidelines for implementation and test administration, participation requirements, criteria for satisfactory
140 completion, and a strategic plan for encouraging enrollment at an institution of higher education or an
141 accredited vocational training program or other accredited continuing education program.

142 d. For the purposes of this section, the term "functional literacy" shall mean those educational skills
143 necessary to function independently in society, including, but not limited to, reading, writing,
144 comprehension, and arithmetic computation.

145 e. In evaluating a prisoner's educational needs and abilities pursuant to § 53.1-32.1, the
146 Superintendent shall create a system for identifying prisoners with learning disabilities.

147 5. a. To make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance
148 of the Department's duties and the execution of its powers under this title, including, but not limited to,
149 contracts with the United States, other states, and agencies and governmental subdivisions of this
150 Commonwealth, and contracts with corporations, partnerships, or individuals which include, but are not
151 limited to, the purchase of water or wastewater treatment services or both as necessary for the expansion
152 or construction of correctional facilities, consistent with applicable standards and goals of the Board;

153 b. Notwithstanding the Director's discretion to make and enter into all contracts and agreements
154 necessary or incidental to the performance of the Department's duties and the execution of its powers
155 under this title, upon determining that it shall be desirable to contract with a public or private entity for
156 the provision of community-based residential services pursuant to Chapter 5 (§ 53.1-177 et seq.), the
157 Director shall notify the local governing body of the jurisdiction in which the facility is to be located of
158 the proposal and of the facility's proposed location and provide notice, where requested, to the chief
159 law-enforcement officer for such locality when an offender is placed in the facility at issue;

160 c. Notwithstanding the Director's discretion to make and enter into all contracts and agreements
161 necessary or incidental to the performance of the Department's duties and the execution of its powers
162 under this title, upon determining that it is necessary to transport Virginia prisoners through or to
163 another state and for other states to transport their prisoners within the Commonwealth, the Director may
164 execute reciprocal agreements with other states' corrections agencies governing such transports that shall
165 include provisions allowing each state to retain authority over its prisoners while in the other state.

166 6. To accept, hold and enjoy gifts, donations and bequests on behalf of the Department from the
167 United States government and agencies and instrumentalities thereof, and any other source, subject to the
168 approval of the Governor. To these ends, the Director shall have the power to comply with such
169 conditions and execute such agreements as may be necessary, convenient or desirable, consistent with
170 applicable standards and goals of the Board;

171 7. To collect data pertaining to the demographic characteristics of adults, and juveniles who are
172 adjudicated as adults, incarcerated in state correctional institutions, including, but not limited to, the race
173 or ethnicity, age, and gender of such persons, whether they are a member of a criminal gang, and the
174 types of and extent to which health-related problems are prevalent among such persons. Beginning July
175 1, 1997, such data shall be collected, tabulated quarterly, and reported by the Director to the Governor
176 and the General Assembly at each regular session of the General Assembly thereafter. The report shall
177 be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the
178 processing of legislative documents and reports;

179 8. To make application to the appropriate state and federal entities so as to provide any prisoner who
180 is committed to the custody of the state a Department of Motor Vehicles approved identification card
181 that would expire 90 days from issuance, a copy of his birth certificate if such person was born in the

182 Commonwealth, and a social security card from the Social Security Administration;

183 9. To forward to the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council, updated on a monthly basis, a list
184 of all identified criminal gang members incarcerated in state correctional institutions. The list shall
185 contain identifying information for each criminal gang member, as well as his criminal record;

186 10. To give notice, to the attorney for the Commonwealth prosecuting a defendant for an offense that
187 occurred in a state correctional facility, of that defendant's known gang membership. The notice shall
188 contain identifying information for each criminal gang member as well as his criminal record;

189 11. To designate employees of the Department with internal investigations authority to have the same
190 power as a sheriff or a law-enforcement officer in the investigation of allegations of criminal behavior
191 affecting the operations of the Department. Such employees shall be subject to any minimum training
192 standards established by the Department of Criminal Justice Services under § 9.1-102 for
193 law-enforcement officers prior to exercising any law-enforcement power granted under this subdivision.
194 Nothing in this section shall be construed to grant the Department any authority over the operation and
195 security of local jails not specified in any other provision of law. The Department shall investigate
196 allegations of criminal behavior in accordance with a written agreement entered into with the
197 Department of State Police. The Department shall not investigate any action falling within the authority
198 vested in the Office of the State Inspector General pursuant to Chapter 3.2 (§ 2.2-307 et seq.) of Title
199 2.2 unless specifically authorized by the Office of the State Inspector General;

200 12. To enforce and direct the Department to enforce regulatory policies promulgated by the Board
201 prohibiting the possession of obscene materials, as defined in Article 5 (§ 18.2-372 et seq.) of Chapter 8
202 of Title 18.2, by prisoners incarcerated in state correctional facilities; ~~and~~

203 13. To develop and administer a survey of each correctional officer, as defined in § 53.1-1, who
204 resigns, is terminated, or is transitioned to a position other than correctional officer for the purpose of
205 evaluating employment conditions and factors that contribute to or impede the retention of correctional
206 officers; *and*

207 14. *To provide, pursuant to § 24.2-314, to the Division of Legislative Services, not later than July 1*
208 *of any year in which the decennial census is taken and in a format specified by the Division,*
209 *information regarding each person incarcerated in a state correctional facility on April 1 of that year.*
210 *Such information shall include, for each person incarcerated, (i) a unique identifier, other than his name*
211 *or offender identification number, assigned by the Director; (ii) his last known residential street address*
212 *prior to incarceration, or other legal residence, if known; (iii) his race, his ethnicity as identified by*
213 *him, and whether he is 18 years of age or older; and (iv) the street address of the correctional facility*
214 *in which he was incarcerated on April 1 of that year.*