

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act for the relief of Paul Jonas Crum, Jr., relating to claims; compensation for wrongful*
3 *incarceration.*

4 [H 1263]

5 Approved

6 Whereas, Paul Jonas Crum, Jr., (Mr. Crum) spent more than five years in prison within the Virginia
7 Department of Corrections for conduct that did not amount to a crime; and

8 Whereas, on December 16, 2014, Mr. Crum was arrested and charged with obstruction of justice
9 pursuant to subsection C of § 18.2-460 of the Code of Virginia; and

10 Whereas, Mr. Crum, on the advice of his attorney, pleaded no contest to felony obstruction of justice
11 in Dickenson County Circuit Court; and

12 Whereas, on December 17, 2015, Mr. Crum was sentenced to 10 years in prison on the charge of
13 obstruction of justice; and

14 Whereas, on November 27, 2019, by unanimous decision, the Virginia Supreme Court granted Mr.
15 Crum's habeas corpus petition, vacated his conviction, and held that he was denied the effective
16 assistance of counsel because counsel advised Mr. Crum to plead no contest when his conduct did not
17 meet the elements of the offense; and

18 Whereas, the Commonwealth agreed with Mr. Crum's petition that his actions did not violate the
19 Code of Virginia; and

20 Whereas, Mr. Crum spent more than five years in prison as a result of his conviction for obstruction
21 of justice; and

22 Whereas, Mr. Crum, as a result of his wrongful incarceration, lost more than five years of his
23 freedom and countless life experiences and opportunities, including family relations, the opportunity to
24 further his education, and the opportunity to earn potential income from gainful employment during his
25 years of incarceration; and

26 Whereas, Mr. Crum is 62 years of age and suffering from cancer; and

27 Whereas, Mr. Crum has no other means to obtain adequate relief except by action of this body; now,
28 therefore,

29 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

30 **1.** *§ 1. That there is hereby appropriated from the general fund of the state treasury the sum of*
31 *\$289,068 for the relief of Paul Jonas Crum, Jr., to be paid by check issued by the State Treasurer on*
32 *warrant of the Comptroller upon execution of a release of all claims Mr. Crum may have against the*
33 *Commonwealth or any agency, instrumentality, office, employee, or political subdivision in connection*
34 *with the aforesaid occurrence.*

35 *The compensation, subject to the execution of the release described herein, shall be paid as a single*
36 *lump sum to Mr. Crum by check issued by the State Treasurer on warrant of the Comptroller within 60*
37 *days immediately following the execution of such release.*

38 *§ 2. Mr. Crum shall be entitled to receive reimbursement up to \$10,000 for tuition for career and*
39 *technical training within the Virginia Community College System contingent upon successful completion*
40 *of the training. Reimbursement for tuition shall be provided by the comprehensive community college at*
41 *which the career or technical training was completed. The tuition benefit provided by this section shall*
42 *expire on January 1, 2027.*

43 *§ 3. Any amount already paid to Mr. Crum as a transition assistance grant pursuant to subsection C*
44 *of § 8.01-195.11 of the Code of Virginia shall be deducted from any award received pursuant to § 1 of*
45 *this act.*

46 **2.** *That the provisions of § 8.01-195.12 of the Code of Virginia shall apply to any compensation*
47 *awarded under this act.*