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SENATE BILL NO. 66

Offered January 10, 1996

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 14.1-70 of the Code of Virginia, relating to number of law-enforcement positions.*

Patron—Stolle

Referred to the Committee on Finance

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 14.1-70 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 14.1-70. Number of deputies.

A. Except as provided in § 15.1-48 of the Code of Virginia, the respective number of full-time deputies appointed by positions allotted to the sheriff of a county or city shall be fixed by the Compensation Board after receiving such recommendation of requests and recommendations from the board of supervisors of the county or the council of the city, as the case may be, as the board of supervisors or city council may desire to make. Such recommendation or from the sheriff. Requests and recommendations, if any, shall be made to the Compensation Board on or before April February 1 of each year.

B. In any county without a police force, upon the:

1. Upon request of the board of supervisors of such county sheriff, the number of such law-enforcement deputies shall be fixed at not less than one such deputy for each 2,000 population in such county excluding the population served by state educational institution police departments if the sheriff's department does not provide the majority of the law-enforcement activities to such population according to uniform crime reports compiled by the Department of State Police. The Compensation Board shall also consider any agreement the sheriff may have pursuant to § 15.1-131.3 and any obligation he the sheriff may have pursuant to this section to provide law enforcement for towns in fixing the number of deputies.

2. Beginning July 1, 1996, upon request of the sheriff, the minimum number of deputies fixed for service of process shall be determined based upon six papers served per hour in all cities and counties with a population of 100,000 and above, three papers served per hour in counties with a population between 70,000 and 99,999, and two papers served per hour in counties with a population of less than 70,000, and 1,750 hours per year of available time per deputy.

3. Beginning July 1, 1996, upon request of the sheriff, the number of deputies fixed for courtroom and courthouse security shall be based upon a minimum of two deputies in circuit court, one in general district court and one in the juvenile and domestic relations or family court for criminal cases at eight hours per day per deputy when court is in session and 1,750 hours per year of available time per deputy.

C. The governing body of any county or city may employ a greater number of law-enforcement deputies than fixed by the Compensation Board, provided that the county or city shall pay the total compensation and all employer costs for such additional deputies.

2. That no positions shall be abolished between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 1997, in any sheriff's office in which the number of positions exceeds the standards established in this act. However, positions which become vacant after July 1, 1997, in any sheriff's office in which the number of positions exceeds the standards established in this act shall be reallocated by the Compensation Board to other sheriffs' offices whose staffing levels do not meet the minimum standards of this act.

INTRODUCED

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