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SENATE BILL NO. 724

Offered January 22, 2016

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 53.1-5 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 1 of Title 53.1 a section numbered 53.1-7.1, relating to Board of Corrections; powers and duties.*

Patron—Marsden

Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 53.1-5 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 1 of Title 53.1 a section numbered 53.1-7.1 as follows:

§ 53.1-5. Powers and duties of Board.

The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To develop and establish operational and fiscal standards governing the operation of *state*, local, regional and community correctional facilities;

2. To advise the Governor and Director on matters relating to corrections;

3. To make, adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title and other laws of the Commonwealth pertaining to local, regional and community correctional facilities;

4. To ensure the development of programs to educate citizens and elicit public support for the activities of the Department;

5. To establish and promulgate regulations regarding the provision of educational and vocational programs within the Department; ~~and~~

6. To adopt and promulgate regulations and require the Director and Department to enforce regulations prohibiting the possession of obscene materials, as defined and described in Article 5 (§ 18.2-372 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, by prisoners incarcerated in state correctional facilities;

7. *To ensure the development of long-range programs and plans for corrections services provided at the state and local levels;*

8. *To review and comment on all budgets and requests for appropriations for the Department prior to their submission to the Governor and on all applications for federal funds; and*

9. *To monitor the activities of the Department and its effectiveness in implementing the standards and goals of the Board.*

§ 53.1-7.1. Board may authorize payment of certain medical expenses.

The Board may authorize the payment of medical expenses incurred by a prisoner after his release or discharge from the Department when such expenses are the result of an injury suffered by the prisoner while incarcerated and not caused by the misconduct of the prisoner.

INTRODUCED

SB724