

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 124

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Stanley

3. Committee: Rehabilitation and Social Services

4. Title: Transition assistance for inmates being released from prison

5. Summary:

The proposed legislation would require the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide transition assistance to any inmate being released on parole or mandatory release. The transition program is to include advice for job training opportunities, recommendations for living a law-abiding life, and financial literacy information. The Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security is directed to prescribe guidelines for such a program.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See Item 8 below.

8. Fiscal Implications:

Inmates are released from prison under one of several scenarios, all of which involve some degree of transition, re-entry, and programming:

- Nonparole eligible—Offenders convicted of offenses committed after January 1, 1995 are not eligible for parole and must serve at least 85 percent of their sentences. This category is the one in which most released offenders fall. According to DOC, within 12 months of their release, inmates in this category are placed in intensive re-entry programs or are given the opportunity to participate in programming that meets the criteria set out in the proposed legislation;
- Discretionary parole—Eligible inmates who are granted parole are required, by the Parole Board as a condition of release, to participate in a five-month re-entry program administered by DOC.
- Mandatory release—Inmates eligible for parole, but who are not granted discretionary parole, are required to be released six months, under parole supervision, prior to their release. Prior to their release, these inmates have the opportunity to participate in transition, re-entry, and programming.

- Parole violators—Inmates released on discretionary parole, who violate the terms of their parole supervision, may be re-incarcerated. Prior to his subsequent release, the Parole Board may require such an offender to participate in DOC’s re-entry program, if the offender has served a substantial period of time and it appears the program would be useful.

In summary, because DOC and the Parole Board currently provide re-entry programming opportunities to offenders prior to their release, the proposed legislation would have no fiscal impact.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Department of Corrections
Virginia Parole Board

10. Technical Amendment Necessary:

On line 48 of the bill, there is a reference to the “Secretary of Homeland Security and Public Safety”. It is suggested that the official title of “Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security” be reflected in the proposed legislation.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/14/2016

Document: G:\LEGIS\fis-16\sb124.docx Dick Hall-Sizemore