

## **Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB1397

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Norment

**3. Committee:** Rehabilitation and Social Services

**4. Title:** Conditional release of geriatric or terminally ill inmates; notice to attorney for the Commonwealth.

**5. Summary:** This bill requires the Virginia Parole Board (VPB) to notify by certified mail at least 21 business days prior to conditional release of any geriatric or terminally ill inmate convicted of a felony the attorney for the Commonwealth in the jurisdiction where the inmate was sentenced. The bill provides that this provision does not alter the obligations of the VPB under § 53.1-155, which governs investigation prior to release and transition assistance.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The VPB estimates that up to 879 offenders may be eligible for geriatric parole in FY2021. Assuming a cost of \$6.95 per letter and a stable number of eligible offenders, the maximum cost to send the certified letters required by this bill totals \$6,109 each year. Such costs would be covered by the Department of Corrections (DOC), which processes certified mail on behalf of the VPB. According to DOC, this cost can be absorbed within the agency's existing budget. No additional personnel are required to carry out this function.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Parole Board, Department of Corrections

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None