

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2025 General Assembly Session  
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB2507 **Patron:** Runion  
**Bill Title:** Board of Visitors of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind; authority to establish campus police department.

**Bill Summary:** Permits the Board of Visitors of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind to establish a campus police department, in compliance with the provisions of law relating to campus police departments established by institutions of higher education, and to employ campus police officers therein.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 129, Item 484

**Explanation:** This bill would allow the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind to establish a campus police department and employ campus police offers. Both the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind and the Virginia Retirement System would be impacted as a result of the provisions of the bill.

**Fiscal Summary:** The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) will require additional general fund appropriation beginning in FY26 to cover the additional employer cost associated with the higher contribution rate for the Virginia Law Officers’ Retirement System (VaLORS), as well as Line of Duty Act (LODA) premiums. The Virginia Retirement System would require additional nongeneral fund appropriation in FY25 for implementation costs.

**General Fund Expenditure Impact:**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
VSDB	0	\$62,790- \$75,680	\$62,790- \$75,680	\$62,790- \$75,680	\$62,790- \$75,680	\$62,790- \$75,680
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$62,790- \$75,680</b>	<b>\$62,790- \$75,680</b>	<b>\$62,790- \$75,680</b>	<b>\$62,790- \$75,680</b>	<b>\$62,790- \$75,680</b>

**Nongeneral Fund Expenditure Impact:**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
VRS	\$48,000	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$48,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Fiscal Analysis:** VSDB currently employs nine campus security officers and has one open campus security officer position. If, as a result of the provisions of this bill, the campus security officer positions are reclassified

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as sworn campus police officers, those positions would become eligible for VaLORS and LODA benefits. The change in retirement plan membership from the normal state employee plan to the VaLORS plan would result in a change in employer retirement contributions from 12.52% to 24.60% of each impacted employee's salary. The employer cost for the LODA premium is \$1,015 per campus police officer. If the existing nine campus security officers were to become campus police officers, the estimated additional cost to VSDB would be \$53,655 for VaLORS and \$9,135 for the LODA premium, for a total of \$62,790. If VSDB fills the tenth officer position, it is estimated that these amounts would change to \$65,530 for VaLORS and \$10,150 for the LODA premium, for a total of \$75,680.

The addition of VSDB's campus police officers is not expected to have an immediate impact to the employer contribution rate for VaLORS. Depending on the demographics and experience of VSDB's current or future campus police officers, their eligibility for LODA benefits may impact future LODA premium rates for the Line of Duty Death and Health Benefits Fund. Per VRS, officers who served at VSDB prior to the passage of this bill would not be eligible for VaLORS. Although VSDB had the authority to establish a campus police department and employ campus police officers prior to 2016, as explained below, they did not report any prior employees as eligible for VaLORS; therefore, based on available information, it's anticipated that no prior VaLORS contributions need to be collected. However, if prior agency reporting was in error, VRS would need to recalculate service and employer contribution rates, retirement benefits, and potentially survivor or death benefits for any VSDB campus police officers prior to 2016. This process would impact VaLORS rates for all employers.

The Virginia Retirement System would require additional nongeneral fund appropriation of \$48,000 in FY25 for implementation costs. This amount does not include the potential impact to future State or VaLORS contribution rates for FY27 in Item 484 or to the funded status of the State or VaLORS plans.

**Other:** VSDB had the authority to establish a campus police department prior to the recodification of Title 23 into Title 23.1 in 2016. Current Va. Code § 23.1-809 authorizes public institutions of higher education to establish campus police departments. Va. Code § 23.1-100 defines "public institution of higher education" for purposes of Title 23.1 as follows: "Public institution of higher education" includes the [Virginia Community College] System as a whole and each associate-degree-granting and baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. This definition does not include VSDB. Va. Code § 23-232, the predecessor statute to Va. Code § 23.1-809, provided that any public institution of higher education "named in § 23-14" was authorized to establish a campus police department. VSDB was included in the list of institutions in Va. Code § 23-14. VSDB operated with a campus police department until 2023 when the change in code was identified by the agency, and the VSDB Campus Police and Security Department was decommissioned.

This bill is a companion to SB797.