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

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Bill Number: HB2576 **Patron:** Phillips

Bill Title: Conditional release of geriatric prisoners.

Bill Summary: Expands the list of offenses that prohibit a person from petitioning the Parole Board for

conditional release as a geriatric prisoner.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary:

According to the Virginia Parole Board, this proposal will require IT updates to the CORIS system offender management system

Fiscal Analysis:

According to the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC), a total of 3,962 inmates were considered for geriatric release during FY2020-FY2024. Of those considered during the four-year period, 3.3% were granted release under the geriatric provision. Although this bill would reduce the number of inmates eligible for geriatric release under § 53.1-40.01 (conditional release of geriatric prisoners), the proposal applies to offenses committed on or after July 1, 2025, and would not affect the eligibility of current inmates.

Ultimately, the Virginia Parole Board (VPB) makes decisions on whether to grant geriatric release. However, according to the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission (VCSC), given the prospective (rather than retroactive) application of the proposal, felony case processing time in circuit courts (which averages about 10 to 11 months), and the Parole Board's grant rate for geriatric release, designating certain future inmates as ineligible for geriatric release is unlikely to have an impact on state responsible (prison) bed space needs during the six-year population forecast window. Therefore, pursuant to §30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, VCSC has assigned a \$0 impact on state adult correctional facilities (prisons). The proposal only applies to state inmates and is not expected to have an impact on local-responsible (jail) bed space needs.

According to the VPB, the changes proposed by this bill are not expected to have a material impact on agency operations. However, this bill would require changes to CORIS, which the Department of Corrections (DOC) uses to track offender data including parole eligibility status, to identify inmates who commit disqualifying crimes after July 1, 2025, and separate them from the existing geriatric parole eligible offenders by the types of crimes committed. The one-time estimated cost to make the required changes is \$360,000. The one-time modification costs are expected to be absorbed by DOC. The bill is not expected to have any other fiscal impact on DOC operations.

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Other: None