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

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Bill Number: HB2467 E Patron: Henson

Bill Title: State Board of Local and Regional Jails; oversight of local and regional jails; powers and

duties.

Bill Summary: This bill increases the membership of the State Board of Local and Regional Jails (the Board) from 11 to 19, adding the appointment of (i) two members of the Senate and two members of the House of Delegates and (ii) four nonlegislative citizen members.

The bill expands the duties of the Board including: providing inmate rights information to various interested parties; establishing policies for a statewide uniform reporting system to collect and analyze complaint data received in or about local, regional, and community correctional facilities; monitoring, documenting, reviewing, and reporting on the operation of stores and commissaries and electronic visitation, messaging, and telephone systems in local correctional facilities; and reviewing, monitoring, reporting, and making recommendations on policies related to attorney access to clients for calls and visitation, voting access for inmates who are eligible; and collecting data on suicides, suicide attempts, and self-harm in custody.

The bill adds information that must be included in the Board's annual report to the General Assembly and the Governor and requires the report be made available to the public online. The bill enumerates certain items for assessment that may be included in the Board's annual inspection of each local correctional facility and establishes the Board's authority to access such facilities, interview persons, and access certain information and documents. Upon completion of an inspection, the bill requires the Board to produce a report with such information outlined in the bill, to be made available to the public online and to be delivered to the Governor, the Attorney General, the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services, the House Committee on Public Safety, and the sheriff in charge of the local correctional facility or superintendent of the regional correctional facility.

The bill allows the Board to initiate and attempt to resolve an investigation upon its own initiative, or upon receipt of a complaint from an inmate, a family member or representative of an inmate, or a local, regional, or community correctional facility employee or contractor, or others, regarding various concerns as enumerated in the bill. The bill prohibits the Board from levying any fee for the submission or investigation of complaints.

The bill requires the Board to provide a statewide toll-free telephone number, a mailing address, and paper and electronic forms for inmates, family members, friends, and advocates to submit complaints and inquiries regarding covered issues on behalf of an inmate incarcerated in a local, regional, or community correctional facility. The bill sets out the responsibilities of the Board upon receipt of a complaint or an inquiry.

The engrossed version of the bill delays the effective date until July 1, 2026.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: See below

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Fiscal Summary: The Board is an entity within the Department of Corrections (DOC). Because the engrossed bill would not become effective until fiscal year (FY) 2027, no budget amendment is needed in this biennium. However, DOC provided cost and position estimates to address the increased workload resulting from the bill as detailed below.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	FY2030
Department of			\$2.9 million	\$2.9 million	\$2.9 million	\$2.9 million
Corrections			\$2.9 million	\$2.9 111111011	\$2.9 Million	\$2.9 111111011
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TOTAL			\$2.9 million	\$2.9 million	\$2.9 million	\$2.9 million

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
Department of Corrections			17	17	17	17
TOTAL			17	17	17	17

Fiscal Analysis: This bill establishes new duties related to external communication, data management, advocacy support, and technical assistance. According to DOC, the Board has eight full-time employees and one wage position, none of which are able to assume the expanded duties required by the bill. The table below provides details for the additional positions DOC believes the Board would need.

Position	Number of Positions	Duties	Cost (General Fund, salary and benefits included)	Total Cost
Communications Specialist	1	Disseminate inmate rights information to stakeholders	\$139,707	\$139,707
Advocacy Specialist	1	Support inmate self-advocacy	\$80,793	\$80,793
Oversight Liaison	1	Assist local governments in the creation of oversight bodies	\$128,308	\$128,308
Senior Research Analyst	3	Manage statewide uniform reporting system	\$124,532	\$373,596
Complaint Investigators	5	Manage statewide uniform reporting system	\$106,776	\$533,880

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Program Coordinators	2	Manage statewide uniform reporting system	\$121,975	\$243,950
Commissary Program Coordinator	1	Commissary, electronic visitation, phone services	\$121,975	\$121,975
Policy Analyst	1	Commissary, electronic visitation, phone services	\$108,775	\$108,775
Communications Specialist	1	Commissary, electronic visitation, phone services	\$80,793	\$80,793
Strategic Initiatives Manager	1	Develop short-term and long-term strategic plans to guide the Board's expanded functions	\$133,374	\$133,374
Total	17			\$1,945,151

DOC believes that the current space the Board occupies in the DOC headquarters building is not sufficient to accommodate an expanded team. In addition, DOC reports that there would be ongoing costs related to equipment, IT support, and cybersecurity given the enhanced data collection and reporting system requirements. Although specific costs were not provided, the total \$2.9 million estimate given by DOC includes these additional expenses.

Other: None