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

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Bill Number: HB 2221ER Patron: Cousins

Bill Title: Prisoners; Department of Corrections-issued and jailer-issued identification; report.

Bill Summary: This bill requires the Department of Corrections, in conjunction with the Department of Motor Vehicles, the State Registrar of Vital Records, and any other relevant government agency to provide to a prisoner who has been confined for at least 90 days and does not possess a government-issued identification card, birth certificate, and social security card with a certified copy of such prisoner's birth certificate, his social security card, and a government-issued identification card, prior to such prisoner's release or discharge. The bill also specifies what identifying information must be included on a prisoner's Department of Corrections Offender Identification form provided to a prisoner who is unable to obtain a government-issued identification card prior to his release or discharge and provides that such form shall satisfy certain requirements for the purposes of obtaining a government-issued identification card for the 120 days immediately following the release or discharge of the prisoner identified on such form.

The bill requires the Department of Corrections, in coordination with the State Board of Local and Regional Jails to issue a report on the number of prisoners released with and without identification cards and include its findings regarding the processes involved in applying for and obtaining government documents for prisoners prior to their release or discharge and its recommendations for improving the process to the General Assembly by November 1, 2025.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary:

This bill would require the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide an Offender Identification Form if a prisoner is unable to obtain a government-issued ID before release. This form must include key details like name and date of birth and serves as proof of identity, legal presence, social security number, and Virginia residency for 120 days after release. The bill would require interagency cooperation between DOC, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and the State Registrar of Vital Records.

DOC would also be required to track prisoners released with or without identification, to identify obstacles in preventing compliance, and to report their findings and recommendations by November 1, 2025.

The bill would require DOC and the State Board of Local and Regional Jails to form a work group to improve prisoner ID access before release, involving state agencies, law enforcement, advocacy groups, and legislators and report on findings by November 1, 2025.

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DMV reports that it will implement the provisions of this legislation utilizing existing staffing and resource	s.
DOC reports this proposal will not have a material fiscal impact on agency operations.	

Fiscal Analysis: N/A

Other: None.