

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB2158H1

Patron: Carr

Bill Title: Department of Corrections; inmate educational data reporting; Virginia Prison Education Task Force.

Bill Summary: The bill requires the Virginia Department of Corrections to share data with the state entity that oversees the management, direction, and governance of the Commonwealth's education and workforce data for the purpose of developing educational, health, social service, and employment outcome data and improving the efficacy of state services; (2) share data with the Virginia Community College System necessary for comprehensive community colleges to apply for and maintain eligibility as Federal Pell Grant-eligible prison education programs and (3) track and publicly report at least annually the number of incarcerated individuals eligible for, enrolled in, and waitlisted for the functional literacy program. The bill also establishes the Virginia Prison Education Task Force for the purpose of implementing a consistent education program across all state correctional facilities. The bill requires the Task Force to submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly by November 1 each year beginning on November 1, 2026, and to complete its work by July 1, 2030. This Task Force shall establish a Higher Education Advisory Group (the Advisory Group), which shall make recommendations to the Task Force on a possible interagency agreement between the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System and the Department of Corrections. Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Education to, by November 1, 2025, (1) review and update the salary schedules for teachers licensed by the Board of Education and employed by the Department of Corrections to provide instruction in the schools of the correctional centers to be competitive with those in effect for the school division in which the correctional facility is located and (2) make recommendations for the inclusion of such teacher salary increases in the appropriation act.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary:

The Department of Corrections (DOC), Virginia Community College System (VCCS), and the Department of Education (DOE) report that sharing data, implementing the task force, and reviewing teacher salaries will not have a fiscal impact on agency operations.

Fiscal Analysis: N/A

Other: None