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SENATE BILL NO. 468

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 13, 2026

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-309.4 and 16.1-322.1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 13.1 of Chapter 11 of Title 16.1 a section numbered 16.1-322.4:1, relating to juvenile secure detention facilities; placement of juveniles referred from another locality; high-needs or high-risk juveniles; funding.

 Patron—Marsden

 Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 16.1-309.4 and 16.1-322.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 13.1 of Chapter 11 of Title 16.1 a section numbered 16.1-322.4:1 as follows:

§ 16.1-309.4. Statewide plan for juvenile services.

It shall be the duty of the Department of Juvenile Justice to devise, develop, and promulgate a statewide plan for the establishment and maintenance of a range of institutional and community-based, diversion, predispositional and postdispositional services to be reasonably accessible to each court. The Department shall be responsible for the collection and dissemination of the required court data necessary for the development of the plan. *Such statewide plan shall include (i) a plan for juvenile secure detention facilities in the Commonwealth, which shall designate the total number of facilities to be in operation in the Commonwealth, the location of each facility, the localities each facility shall serve, and the number of beds required for each facility and (ii) procedures for determining the appropriate placement of juveniles pursuant to the plan.* The plan shall utilize the information provided by local plans submitted under § 16.1-309.3. The plan shall be submitted to the Board on or before July 1 in odd-numbered years. The plan shall include a biennial forecast with appropriate annual updates as may be required of future juvenile correctional center and detention home needs. *The Department may reduce or cease the apportionment of any state funds to any localities or commissions that choose not to participate in the plan for juvenile secure detention facilities in the Commonwealth included in the statewide plan as required by this section.*

§ 16.1-322.1. Apportionment of funds to localities or commissions operating juvenile secure detention facilities or programs; standards for apportionment.

The Department shall apportion among the localities or commissions operating a juvenile secure detention facility the moneys appropriated to the Department in the general appropriation act for the support of such facilities, excluding amounts approved for the state share of construction and rental of facilities, state ward per diem allowances, and payments for the United States Department of Agriculture lunch program. Such apportionment shall be made as follows:

The allocation shall be apportioned to provide each locality or commission operating a juvenile secure detention facility an allowance for salaries and expenses. Such allowance shall be at least equal to the amount of the allowance provided to each locality or commission for such salaries and expenses in the immediately preceding fiscal year for similar services. The Department may adjust such allowance, where applicable, for new programs and facilities or for discontinued programs and services.

The Department may designate up to three juvenile secure detention facilities to provide additional support and services to juveniles identified as high-needs or high-risk. The Department may increase the apportionment made in accordance with this section and provide any additional funding or resources to the localities or commissions operating such designated facilities.

The Department may reduce the apportionments made in accordance with this section from time to time if any facility fails to comply with Department policy or standards approved by the Board. In effecting such a reduction of funds, the Department shall not be required to comply with the provisions of Chapter 40 (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) of Title 2.2. Each locality or commission eligible to receive state funds apportioned under this section shall maintain operational and financial records which shall be open for evaluation by the Department and audit by the Auditor of Public Accounts.

The Governor may withhold approval for state expenditures, by reimbursement or otherwise, for the purposes set out in this section as provided in the current general appropriations act.

§ 16.1-322.4:1. Juvenile secure detention facilities; placement of juveniles referred from other localities; funding.

A. Any locality or commission operating a juvenile secure detention facility that receives state funds pursuant to § 16.1-322.1 shall accept the placement of any juvenile referred from another locality, unless

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59 accepting placement of such juvenile is not feasible due to security concerns or exigent circumstances related
60 to staffing or other operational factors. If any locality or commission refuses to accept the placement of any
61 such juvenile for any reason other than security concerns or exigent circumstances, the Department may
62 reduce or cease the apportionment of any funds to the locality or commission pursuant to § 16.1-322.1,
63 including any funds for facility operations and education programs.

64 B. When a locality or commission operating a juvenile secure detention facility accepts the placement of a
65 juvenile referred from another locality as required by subsection A, (i) any medical expenses incurred on
66 behalf of such juvenile shall be borne by the locality from which the juvenile was referred, unless otherwise
67 agreed to by the locality referring such juvenile and the locality or commission accepting such juvenile; (ii) if
68 an employee of the juvenile secure detention facility is injured in the course of his employment by any such
69 juvenile, the locality from which such juvenile was referred shall be considered the employer for the purposes
70 of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act (§ 65.2-100 et seq.); (iii) any sheriff's departments that are
71 impacted by additional travel requirements related to transporting juveniles shall be compensated to the
72 extent practicable from identified savings; and (iv) the locality referring such juvenile and the locality or
73 commission accepting such juvenile shall negotiate in good faith to arrive at mutually agreeable funding
74 contributions. If the localities or commissions are unable to reach an agreement on the funding contributions
75 required by clause (iv), then the Department shall determine the funding contributions. Failure of any
76 locality or commission to comply with such funding contributions as determined by the Department may
77 result in the loss or reduction of the apportionment of any funds to the locality or commission pursuant to
78 § 16.1-322.1, including any funds for facility operations and education programs.