

2026 SESSION

INTRODUCED

26103666D

1 **SENATE BILL NO. 485**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to direct the Virginia Commission on Youth and the Office of the Children's Ombudsman to convene*
5 *a work group to study extending the oversight of the Office of the Children's Ombudsman to include*
6 *committed juveniles; report.*

7 Patron—Marsden

8
9 Referred to Committee on Education and Health

10 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

11 1. *That the Virginia Commission on Youth, in coordination with the Office of the Children's Ombudsman,*
12 *shall convene a work group to determine the changes necessary to extend the purview of the*
13 *Office of the Children's Ombudsman to include overseeing juveniles who are committed to the Department*
14 *of Juvenile Justice. The work group shall be composed of representatives from the Department of Juvenile*
15 *Justice, court service units, juvenile detention centers, juvenile and domestic relations district court judges,*
16 *attorneys for the Commonwealth, public defenders, guardians ad litem, juvenile justice advocacy groups,*
17 *and other relevant state, local, or community organizations. The work group shall examine the current*
18 *functions and duties of the Office of the Children's Ombudsman and what organizational changes shall be*
19 *necessary to extend the Office's oversight to include juveniles committed to the Department of Juvenile*
20 *Justice, including legislative amendments and additional staffing or resource requirements. The work group*
21 *shall submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by*
22 *November 1, 2026.*

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