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## HOUSE BILL NO. 1041

## AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Public Safety

on \_\_\_\_\_)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Carr)

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-2007, 22.1-23, 23.1-2908, and 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Corrections; establishment of general system of schools for incarcerated individuals.*

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

**1. That §§ 2.2-2007, 22.1-23, 23.1-2908, and 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

## § 2.2-2007. Powers of the CIO.

A. The CIO shall promulgate regulations necessary or incidental to the performance of duties or execution of powers conferred under this chapter. The CIO shall also develop policies, standards, and guidelines for the planning, budgeting, procurement, development, maintenance, security, and operations of information technology for executive branch agencies. Such policies, standards, and guidelines shall include those necessary to:

1. Support state and local government exchange, acquisition, storage, use, sharing, and distribution of data and related technologies.

2. Support the development of electronic transactions including the use of electronic signatures as provided in § 59.1-496.

3. Support a unified approach to information technology across the totality of state government, thereby assuring that the citizens and businesses of the Commonwealth receive the greatest possible security, value, and convenience from investments made in technology.

4. Ensure that the costs of information technology systems, products, data, and services are contained through the shared use of existing or planned equipment, data, or services.

5. Provide for the effective management of information technology investments through their entire life cycles, including identification, business case development, selection, procurement, implementation, operation, performance evaluation, and enhancement or retirement. Such policies, standards, and guidelines shall include, at a minimum, the periodic review by the CIO of agency Commonwealth information technology projects.

6. Establish an Information Technology Investment Management Standard based on acceptable technology investment methods to ensure that all executive branch agency technology expenditures are an integral part of the Commonwealth's performance management system, produce value for the agency and the Commonwealth, and are aligned with (i) agency strategic plans, (ii) the Governor's policy objectives, and (iii) the long-term objectives of the Council on Virginia's Future.

B. In addition to other such duties as the Secretary may assign, the CIO shall:

1. Oversee and administer the Virginia Technology Infrastructure Fund created pursuant to § 2.2-2023.

2. Report annually to the Governor, the Secretary, and the Joint Commission on Technology and Science created pursuant to § 30-85 on the use and application of information technology by executive branch agencies to increase economic efficiency, citizen convenience, and public access to state government.

3. Prepare annually a report for submission to the Secretary, the Information Technology Advisory Council, and the Joint Commission on Technology and Science on a prioritized list of Recommended Technology Investment Projects (RTIP Report) based upon major information technology projects submitted for business case approval pursuant to this chapter. As part of the RTIP Report, the CIO shall develop and regularly update a methodology for prioritizing projects based upon the allocation of points to defined criteria. The criteria and their definitions shall be presented in the RTIP Report. For each project recommended for funding in the RTIP Report, the CIO shall indicate the number of points and how they were awarded. For each listed project, the CIO shall also report (i) all projected costs of ongoing operations and maintenance activities of the project for the next three biennia following project implementation; (ii) a justification and description for each project baseline change; and (iii) whether the project fails to incorporate existing standards for the maintenance, exchange, and security of data. This report shall also include trends in current projected information technology spending by executive branch agencies and secretariats, including spending on projects, operations and maintenance, and payments to VITA. Agencies shall provide all project and cost information required to complete the RTIP Report to the CIO prior to May 31 immediately preceding any budget biennium in which the project appears in the Governor's budget bill.

4. Provide oversight for executive branch agency efforts to modernize the planning, development, implementation, improvement, operations and maintenance, and retirement of Commonwealth information technology, including oversight for the selection, development and management of enterprise information technology.

60        5. Develop statewide technical and data standards and specifications for information technology and  
61 related systems, including (i) the efficient exchange of electronic information and technology, including  
62 infrastructure, between the public and private sectors in the Commonwealth and (ii) the utilization of  
63 nationally recognized technical and data standards for health information technology systems or software  
64 purchased by an executive branch agency.

65        6. Direct the compilation and maintenance of an inventory of information technology, including but not  
66 limited to personnel, facilities, equipment, goods, and contracts for services.

67        7. Provide for the centralized marketing, provision, leasing, and executing of licensing agreements for  
68 electronic access to public information and government services through the Internet, wireless devices,  
69 personal digital assistants, kiosks, or other such related media on terms and conditions as may be determined  
70 to be in the best interest of the Commonwealth. VITA may fix and collect fees and charges for (i) public  
71 information, media, and other incidental services furnished by it to any private individual or entity,  
72 notwithstanding the charges set forth in § 2.2-3704, and (ii) such use and services it provides to any executive  
73 branch agency or local government. Nothing in this subdivision authorizing VITA to fix and collect fees for  
74 providing information services shall be construed to prevent access to the public records of any public body  
75 pursuant to the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.). VITA is  
76 authorized, subject to the approval by the Secretary of Administration and any other affected Secretariat, to  
77 delegate the powers and responsibilities granted in this subdivision to any agency within the executive  
78 branch.

79        8. Periodically evaluate the feasibility of outsourcing information technology resources and services, and  
80 outsource those resources and services that are feasible and beneficial to the Commonwealth.

81        9. Have the authority to enter into and amend contracts, including contracts with one or more other public  
82 bodies, or public agencies or institutions or localities of the several states, of the United States or its  
83 territories, or the District of Columbia, for the provision of information technology services.

84        10. *Enter into an interagency agreement with the Department of Corrections as required by subdivision 4  
85 e of § 53.1-10 to assist in the development of information technology strategic plans and preparation of  
86 budget requests for information technology to support the literacy and education programs required to be  
87 developed and implemented pursuant to subdivision 4 c of § 53.1-10 and include appropriate security  
88 protections.*

89        C. Consistent with § 2.2-2012, the CIO may enter into public-private partnership contracts to finance or  
90 implement information technology programs and projects. The CIO may issue a request for information to  
91 seek out potential private partners interested in providing programs or projects pursuant to an agreement  
92 under this subsection. The compensation for such services shall be computed with reference to and paid from  
93 the increased revenue or cost savings attributable to the successful implementation of the program or project  
94 for the period specified in the contract. The CIO shall be responsible for reviewing and approving the  
95 programs and projects and the terms of contracts for same under this subsection. The CIO shall determine  
96 annually the total amount of increased revenue or cost savings attributable to the successful implementation  
97 of a program or project under this subsection and such amount shall be deposited in the Virginia Technology  
98 Infrastructure Fund created in § 2.2-2023. The CIO is authorized to use moneys deposited in the Fund to pay  
99 private partners pursuant to the terms of contracts under this subsection. All moneys in excess of that required  
100 to be paid to private partners, as determined by the CIO, shall be reported to the Comptroller and retained in  
101 the Fund. The CIO shall prepare an annual report to the Governor, the Secretary, and General Assembly on  
102 all contracts under this subsection, describing each information technology program or project, its progress,  
103 revenue impact, and such other information as may be relevant.

104        D. Executive branch agencies shall cooperate with VITA in identifying the development and operational  
105 requirements of proposed information technology systems, products, data, and services, including the  
106 proposed use, functionality, and capacity, and the total cost of acquisition, operation, and maintenance.

107        **§ 22.1-23. Duties in general.**

108        The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall:

109        1. Serve as secretary of the Board of Education;

110        2. Provide such assistance in his office as shall be necessary for the proper and uniform enforcement of  
111 the provisions of the school laws in cooperation with the local school authorities;

112        3. Prepare and furnish such forms for attendance officers, teachers, and other school officials as are  
113 required by law;

114        4. (Expires July 1, 2028) At least annually, survey all local school divisions to identify critical shortages  
115 of (i) teachers and administrative personnel by geographic area, by school division, or by subject matter; (ii)  
116 specialized student support positions as that term is described in subsection O of § 22.1-253.13:2; and (iii)  
117 school bus drivers by geographic area and local school division and report such critical shortages to each  
118 local school division and to the Virginia Retirement System;

119        5. Develop and provide to local school divisions a model exit questionnaire for teachers;

120        6. Along with the State Health Commissioner, work to combat childhood obesity and other chronic health  
121 conditions that affect school-age children;

122     7. Designate an employee of the Department of Education to serve as its liaison to the State Council of  
 123     Higher Education for Virginia and the State Board for Community Colleges; **and**

124     8. *Enter into an interagency agreement with the Department of Corrections as required by subdivision 4 e*  
 125     *of § 53.1-10 to assist in the development and ongoing implementation of the literacy, secondary, and adult*  
 126     *education programs required to be developed and implemented pursuant to subdivision 4 c of § 53.1-10*  
 127     *across all state correctional facilities operated by the Department of Corrections, including adoption of*  
 128     *teacher credential requirements that reduce teacher vacancy rates; and*

129     9. Perform such other duties as the Board of Education may prescribe.

130     **§ 23.1-2908. Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System.**

131     A. The State Board shall appoint a Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System to be the chief  
 132     executive officer of the System and secretary to the State Board, fix his salary, and prescribe his duties in  
 133     addition to those duties set forth in subsection B.

134     B. The Chancellor shall:

135       1. Formulate such policies and regulations and provide for such assistance in his office as are necessary  
 136       for the proper performance of the duties prescribed by the provisions of this chapter;

137       2. Designate an employee of the State Board to serve as its liaison to the Board of Education;

138       3. Appoint agents and employees and fix their functions, powers, duties, titles, and salaries, subject to the  
 139       approval of the State Board and the provisions of the Virginia Personnel Act (§ 2.2-2900 et seq.);

140       4. Submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before November 1 of each year.  
 141       Such report shall be submitted as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of  
 142       Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on  
 143       the General Assembly's website. Such report shall contain, at a minimum, the annual financial statements for  
 144       the year ending the preceding June 30 and the accounts and status of any ongoing capital projects;

145       5. Prescribe the forms of applications, reports, affidavits, and such other forms as may be required in the  
 146       administration of this chapter;

147       6. Cooperate with agencies of the United States in relation to matters set forth in this chapter and in any  
 148       reasonable manner that may be necessary for the Commonwealth to qualify for and to receive grants or aid  
 149       from such federal agencies, subject to the direction of the State Board; **and**

150       7. Enforce the standards established by the State Board for personnel employed in the administration of  
 151       this chapter and remove or cause to be removed each employee who does not meet such standards;

152       8. *Enter into an interagency agreement with the Department of Corrections as required by subdivision 4 e*  
 153       *of § 53.1-10 to provide and expand access to coursework provided by comprehensive community colleges to*  
 154       *incarcerated individuals that leads to certificates, degrees, credentials, or licenses that enhance workforce*  
 155       *skills or transfers to a baccalaureate public institution of higher education; and*

156       9. *Develop and implement a program to support comprehensive community colleges in (i) providing*  
 157       *coursework to incarcerated individuals that leads to certificates, degrees, credentials, or licenses that*  
 158       *enhance workforce skills or transfers to a baccalaureate public institution of higher education and (ii)*  
 159       *applying for and maintaining eligibility as Federal Pell Grant-eligible prison education programs pursuant*  
 160       *to 34 C.F.R. § 668.238.*

161       C. The Chancellor may receive, for and on behalf of the Commonwealth and its subdivisions, from the  
 162       United States and agencies of the United States and any other source grants-in-aid and gifts made for the  
 163       purpose of providing or assisting in providing any career and technical or other education or educational  
 164       programs authorized by this chapter, including expenses of administration. All such funds shall be paid into  
 165       the state treasury. However, nothing in this chapter shall preclude any other agency, board, or officer of the  
 166       Commonwealth from being designated as the directing or allocating agency, board, or officer for the  
 167       distribution of federal grants-in-aid or the performance of other duties to the extent necessary to qualify for  
 168       and to receive grants-in-aid for programs and institutions under the administration of the State Board.

169       **§ 53.1-10. Powers and duties of Director.**

170       The Director shall be the chief executive officer of the Department and shall have the following duties and  
 171       powers:

172       1. To supervise and manage the Department and its system of state correctional facilities;

173       2. To implement the standards and goals of the Board as formulated for local and community correctional  
 174       programs and facilities and lock-ups;

175       3. To employ such personnel and develop and implement such programs as may be necessary to carry out  
 176       the provisions of this title, subject to Chapter 29 (§ 2.2-2900 et seq.) of Title 2.2, and within the limits of  
 177       appropriations made therefor by the General Assembly;

178       4. To establish and maintain a general system of schools for persons committed to the institutions and  
 179       community-based programs for adults as set forth in § 53.1-67.9. Such system shall include, as applicable,  
 180       elementary, secondary, postsecondary, career and technical education, adult, and special education schools.

181       a. The Director shall employ a Superintendent who will oversee the operation of educational and  
 182       vocational programs in all institutions and community-based programs for adults as set forth in § 53.1-67.9  
 183       operated by the Department. The Department shall be designated as a local education agency (LEA) but shall

184 not be eligible to receive state funds appropriated for direct aid to public education.

185 b. When the Department employs a teacher licensed by the Board of Education to provide instruction in  
186 the schools of the correctional centers, the Department of Human Resource Management shall establish  
187 salary schedules for the teachers ~~which endeavor and annually review and update such salary schedules to be~~ competitive with those in effect for the school division in which the correctional center is located.

188 c. The Superintendent shall develop ~~a~~ and implement a consistent education program across all state  
189 correctional facilities operated by the Department of Corrections that shall include the following:

190 (1) A functional literacy program for inmates testing below a selected grade level, which shall be at least  
191 at the ~~twelfth~~ eighth grade level and include evidence-based literacy instruction, as defined in § 22.1-1;

192 (2) A secondary and adult education program for inmates testing between an eighth and twelfth grade  
193 level that includes a program to prepare for the high school equivalency examination established by the  
194 Board of Education pursuant to § 22.1-254.2; and

195 (3) A postsecondary education program that provides access to coursework sufficient to earn a Uniform  
196 Certificate of General Studies, an associate degree, and postsecondary credentials, certifications, and  
197 licenses.

198 d. The ~~program~~ programs required to be developed and implemented pursuant to subdivision c shall  
199 include guidelines for implementation and test administration, participation requirements, criteria for  
200 satisfactory completion, and a ~~strategic plan for encouraging enrollment at an institution of higher education~~  
201 ~~or an accredited vocational training program or other accredited continuing education program~~ goals for  
202 reducing waitlists for participation in such programs within five years of implementation.

203 e. The Director shall enter into interagency agreements on behalf of the Department with the following  
204 agencies to support the development, implementation, and administration of the programs required by  
205 subdivision c:

206 (1) The Chief Information Officer of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) to assist in the  
207 development of information technology strategic plans and preparation of budget requests for information  
208 technology to support such literacy and education programs and include appropriate security protections;

209 (2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction to assist in the development and ongoing implementation of  
210 the literacy, secondary, and adult education programs required to be developed and implemented pursuant to  
211 subdivision c, including the adoption of teacher credential requirements that reduce the teacher vacancy rate  
212 in such literacy and education programs; and

213 (3) The Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System to provide and expand access to  
214 coursework provided by comprehensive community colleges that leads to certificates, degrees, credentials, or  
215 licenses that enhance workforce skills or transfers to a baccalaureate public institution of higher education.

216 f. The Superintendent shall:

217 (1) Share data with the state entity that oversees the management, direction, and governance of the  
218 Commonwealth's education and workforce data for the purpose of developing educational, health, social  
219 service, and employment outcome data and improving the efficacy of state services;

220 (2) Share data with the Virginia Community College System necessary for comprehensive community  
221 colleges to apply for and maintain eligibility as Federal Pell Grant-eligible prison education programs  
222 pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 668.238; and

223 (3) Track and publicly report at least annually the number of incarcerated individuals eligible for,  
224 enrolled in, and waitlisted for the literacy and education programs required to be implemented by  
225 subdivision c.

226 g. For the purposes of this section, the term "functional literacy" shall mean those educational skills  
227 necessary to function independently in society, including, but not limited to, reading, writing, comprehension,  
228 and arithmetic computation.

229 h. In evaluating a prisoner's educational needs and abilities pursuant to § 53.1-32.1, the Superintendent  
230 shall create a system for identifying prisoners with learning disabilities:

231 5. a. To make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of the  
232 Department's duties and the execution of its powers under this title, including, but not limited to, contracts  
233 with the United States, other states, and agencies and governmental subdivisions of ~~this~~ the Commonwealth,  
234 and contracts with corporations, partnerships, or individuals ~~which~~ that include, but are not limited to, the  
235 purchase of water or wastewater treatment services or both as necessary for the expansion or construction of  
236 correctional facilities;

237 b. Notwithstanding the Director's discretion to make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary  
238 or incidental to the performance of the Department's duties and the execution of its powers under this title,  
239 upon determining that it shall be desirable to contract with a public or private entity for the provision of  
240 community-based residential services pursuant to Chapter 5 (§ 53.1-177 et seq.), the Director shall notify the  
241 local governing body of the jurisdiction in which the facility is to be located of the proposal and of the  
242 facility's proposed location and provide notice, where requested, to the chief law-enforcement officer for such  
243 locality when an offender is placed in the facility at issue;

244 c. Notwithstanding the Director's discretion to make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary

246 or incidental to the performance of the Department's duties and the execution of its powers under this title,  
 247 upon determining that it is necessary to transport Virginia prisoners through or to another state and for other  
 248 states to transport their prisoners within the Commonwealth, the Director may execute reciprocal agreements  
 249 with other states' corrections agencies governing such transports that shall include provisions allowing each  
 250 state to retain authority over its prisoners while in the other state.;

251     6. To accept, hold, and enjoy gifts, donations, and bequests on behalf of the Department from the United  
 252 States government and agencies and instrumentalities thereof, and any other source, subject to the approval of  
 253 the Governor. To these ends, the Director shall have the power to comply with such conditions and execute  
 254 such agreements as may be necessary, convenient, or desirable;

255     7. To collect data pertaining to the demographic characteristics of adults, and juveniles who are  
 256 adjudicated as adults, incarcerated in state correctional institutions, including, but not limited to, the race or  
 257 ethnicity, age, and gender of such persons, whether they are a member of a criminal gang, and the types of  
 258 and extent to which health-related problems are prevalent among such persons. Beginning July 1, 1997, such  
 259 data shall be collected, tabulated quarterly, and reported by the Director to the Governor and the General  
 260 Assembly at each regular session of the General Assembly thereafter. The report shall be submitted as  
 261 provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative  
 262 documents and reports;

263     8. To make application to the appropriate state and federal entities so as to provide any prisoner who is  
 264 committed to the custody of the state a Department of Motor Vehicles approved identification card that  
 265 would expire 90 days from issuance, a copy of his birth certificate if such person was born in the  
 266 Commonwealth, and a social security card from the Social Security Administration;

267     9. To forward to the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council, updated on a monthly basis, a list of  
 268 all identified criminal gang members incarcerated in state correctional institutions. The list shall contain  
 269 identifying information for each criminal gang member, as well as his criminal record;

270     10. To give notice, to the attorney for the Commonwealth prosecuting a defendant for an offense that  
 271 occurred in a state correctional facility, of that defendant's known gang membership. The notice shall contain  
 272 identifying information for each criminal gang member as well as his criminal record;

273     11. To designate employees of the Department with internal investigations authority to have the same  
 274 power as a sheriff or a law-enforcement officer in the investigation of allegations of criminal behavior  
 275 affecting the operations of the Department. Such employees shall be subject to any minimum training  
 276 standards established by the Department of Criminal Justice Services under § 9.1-102 for law-enforcement  
 277 officers prior to exercising any law-enforcement power granted under this subdivision. Nothing in this section  
 278 shall be construed to grant the Department any authority over the operation and security of local jails not  
 279 specified in any other provision of law. The Department shall investigate allegations of criminal behavior in  
 280 accordance with a written agreement entered into with the Department of State Police. The Department shall  
 281 not investigate any action falling within the authority vested in the Office of the State Inspector General  
 282 pursuant to Chapter 3.2 (§ 2.2-307 et seq.) of Title 2.2 unless specifically authorized by the Office of the  
 283 State Inspector General;

284     12. To prescribe and enforce rules prohibiting the possession of obscene materials, as defined in Article 5  
 285 (§ 18.2-372 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, by prisoners incarcerated in state correctional facilities;

286     13. To develop and administer a survey of each correctional officer, as defined in § 53.1-1, who resigns, is  
 287 terminated, or is transitioned to a position other than correctional officer for the purpose of evaluating  
 288 employment conditions and factors that contribute to or impede the retention of correctional officers;

289     14. To promulgate regulations pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) to  
 290 effectuate the provisions of Chapter 5.1 (§ 32.1-162.16 et seq.) of Title 32.1 for human research, as defined in  
 291 § 32.1-162.16, to be conducted or authorized by the Department. The regulations shall require the human  
 292 research committee to submit to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Director or his designee at  
 293 least annually a report on the human research projects reviewed and approved by the committee and shall  
 294 require the committee to report any significant deviations from the proposals as approved;

295     15. To provide, pursuant to § 24.2-314, to the Division of Legislative Services, not later than July 1 of any  
 296 year in which the decennial census is taken and in a format specified by the Division of Legislative Services,  
 297 information regarding each person incarcerated in a state correctional facility on April 1 of that year. Such  
 298 information shall include, for each person incarcerated, (i) a unique identifier, other than his name or offender  
 299 identification number, assigned by the Director; (ii) his residential street address at the time of incarceration,  
 300 or other legal residence, if known; (iii) his race, his ethnicity as identified by him, and whether he is 18 years  
 301 of age or older; and (iv) the street address of the correctional facility in which he was incarcerated on April 1  
 302 of that year; and

303     16. To develop and implement policies for the accommodation in state correctional facilities of inmate  
 304 participation in telehealth appointments, which shall include policies on designating a private space for such  
 305 telehealth appointments to occur.

306     **2. That the Department of Corrections shall reduce the waitlists for participation in the literacy and  
 307 education programs required to be implemented by subdivision 4 c of § 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia,**

308 as amended by this act, within five years of implementation of such programs.

309 3. That the Department of Corrections shall implement a postsecondary education program that

310 provides access to coursework sufficient to earn a Uniform Certificate of General Studies; an associate

311 degree; and postsecondary credentials, certifications, and licenses as required by subdivision 4 c of

312 § 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, in every state correctional facility operated

313 by the Department of Corrections by July 1, 2029.

314 4. That the interagency agreements required to be entered into by the Department of Corrections with

315 the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the

316 Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System pursuant to subdivision 4 e of § 53.1-10 of the

317 Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, shall be signed by January 1, 2027.

318 5. That the Department of Corrections shall implement the functional literacy program required to be

319 implemented by subdivision 4 c of § 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, by

320 January 1, 2027.

321 6. That the Department of Human Resource Management shall, by November 1, 2026, (i) review and

322 update the salary schedules for teachers licensed by the Board of Education and employed by the

323 Department of Corrections to provide instruction in the schools of the correctional centers to be

324 competitive with those in effect for the school division in which the correctional facility is located as

325 required by subdivision 4 b of § 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, and (ii) make

326 recommendations for the inclusion of such teacher salary increases in the appropriation act.

327 7. That there is hereby established the Virginia Prison Education Task Force (the Task Force) for the

328 purpose of implementing a consistent education program across all state correctional facilities

329 operated by the Department of Corrections. The Task Force shall be administered by the Secretary of

330 Finance and shall consist of the following members: (i) two members of the Senate who are not

331 members of the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; (ii)

332 two members of the House of Delegates who are not members of the same political party, who shall be

333 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; (iii) the Secretary of Finance or his designee; (iv)

334 the Secretary of Education or his designee; (v) the Secretary of Labor or his designee; (vi) the

335 Secretary of Commerce and Trade or his designee; (vii) the Director of the Department of Corrections

336 or his designee; (viii) the Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development and

337 Advancement or his designee; (ix) the Chief Information Officer of the Virginia Information

338 Technologies Agency or his designee; (x) the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System or

339 his designee; (xi) the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development or his

340 designee; (xii) the Research Director of the Virginia Office of Education Economics or his designee;

341 (xiii) the President of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce or his designee; (xiv) the Executive Director

342 of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia or his designee; (xv) the Superintendent of Public

343 Instruction or his designee; (xvi) three formerly incarcerated individuals appointed by the Secretary of

344 Finance, including one individual who was enrolled in the Department of Correction's Adult Basic

345 Education program while incarcerated, one individual who was enrolled in postsecondary coursework

346 while incarcerated, and one individual who was not able to access education services while

347 incarcerated; (xvii) a member of a faith-based organization with expertise in prison higher education

348 appointed by the Secretary of Finance; (xviii) a member of a criminal justice advocacy organization

349 appointed by the Secretary of Finance; (xix) a representative with expertise in management of state

350 education and workforce data to be appointed by the Secretary of Finance; and (xx) any other

351 stakeholders as may be appropriate appointed by the Secretary of Finance. The Secretary of Finance

352 shall serve as the chair of the Task Force. A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute

353 a quorum. The Task Force shall meet at least four times a year and upon the call of the chair or at the

354 request of a majority of the members. The Task Force shall make recommendations for and track

355 progress on the development and implementation of a consistent education program across all state

356 correctional facilities operated by the Department of Corrections as required by subdivision 4 c of

357 § 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act. In making such recommendations, the Task

358 Force shall (a) analyze existing and potential state and federal funding programs and develop a

359 strategy to maximize securement and use of available funds; (b) recommend additional budget requests

360 to meet the goals of implementation of the education programs required by subdivision 4 c of § 53.1-10

361 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act; (c) review and support development of the interagency

362 agreements between the Department of Corrections, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the

363 Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, and the Chief Information Officer of the

364 Virginia Information Technologies Agency as required by subdivision 4 e of § 53.1-10 of the Code of

365 Virginia, as amended by this act; (d) advise and support the Department of Corrections in developing a

366 strategy to reduce waitlists for participation in the literacy and education programs required to be

367 implemented by subdivision 4 c of § 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, within five

368 years of implementation; (e) study and recommend the most effective ways to facilitate data collection,

369 sharing, and analysis relating to prison education; (f) study and recommend the most effective ways to

370 increase technological infrastructure in all state correctional facilities operated by the Department of  
371 Corrections to support education; (g) study and recommend the most effective ways to establish  
372 reentry supports to facilitate positive employment outcomes post-release; and (h) conduct regular  
373 evaluations of program effectiveness, outcomes, and conditions to inform education program  
374 improvement.

375 The Task Force shall establish a Higher Education Advisory Group (the Advisory Group), which shall,  
376 at minimum, consist of the following members of the Task Force: the Commissioner of the Department  
377 of Workforce Development and Advancement, the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College  
378 System, the Director of the Department of Corrections, and the Chief Information Officer of the  
379 Virginia Information Technologies Agency, or their designees, a member of a faith-based organization  
380 with expertise in prison higher education, and an active circuit court judge. The Advisory Group shall  
381 make recommendations on the interagency agreement between the Chancellor of the Virginia  
382 Community College System and the Department of Corrections required pursuant to subdivision 4 e of  
383 § 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act; necessary technology infrastructure to meet  
384 the needs of higher education staff in state correctional facilities operated by the Department of  
385 Corrections; and necessary technology tools to provide incarcerated students coursework  
386 commensurate with that provided to nonincarcerated students, including a learning management  
387 system, research library access, advising, synchronous teleconference instruction, application suites,  
388 and long-term storage for students' academic resource materials and work products.

389 The Task Force shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly by  
390 November 1 each year, beginning on November 1, 2027, on its activities, findings and  
391 recommendations, and progress toward implementing the literacy and education programs required  
392 by subdivision 4 c of § 53.10 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act. The Task Force shall  
393 complete its work by July 1, 2029.