



**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2026 General Assembly Session**  
**State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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The bill provides that state funding for regional or local detention homes should support a staffing ratio of one teacher for every eight students in average daily attendance and an additional one teacher for every 10 students in the Community Placement Program. The Department of Education (DOE) estimates that, based on current data, if this staffing ratio was applied state funding for 149 positions (66% of staff) would be eliminated. The State Operated Programs (SOP) year spans April 1 through March 31. If this bill is effective July 1, 2026, then the FY27 state savings would equal 66% of personnel costs for July 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027, or three quarters of FY27. Using the total SOP personnel cost for JDCs in FY26 of \$29.95 million, DOE estimates state savings of approximately \$14.8 million general fund in FY27 ( $\$29.95\text{M} * 0.75 * 0.66$ ). This translates to estimated state savings of \$19.8 million general fund in FY28 and out years ( $\$29.95\text{M} * 0.66$ ). Actual savings would depend on the actual daily attendance at each JDC, the salaries at the local school division serving each JDC, and the formula for allocation to each JDC that is determined by DOE.

Currently, staffing at JDCs is assigned and funded based not only on the ratio required in this Code section, but also based on ensuring compliance with § 22.1-7, Code of Virginia, which requires children in custody to be provided an education “comparable to that which would be provided to such children in the public school system”. In order to provide a comparable education, programs are required to have teachers licensed in each content area, which DOE does not believe would be feasible given the staffing ratios in this bill. Additionally, DOE believes that the proposed ratios in this bill would place DOE in immediate noncompliance with federal requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title I and Title III of the Every Student Succeeds Act, and the Office of Civil Rights’ expectations for education programs and services offered to court-involved students and could lead to complaints, litigation, or other federal actions. DOE and the Board of Education would be liable for any complaints and/or litigation that arose as a result of the new ratios. Any additional state cost related to noncompliance, complaints, or litigation is indeterminate.

**Other:** None