

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene a work group*
3 *to evaluate the feasibility of transferring administrative and supervisory authority of the State Board of*
4 *Local and Regional Jails to another state agency or independent oversight body.*

5 [H 1421]

6 Approved

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

8 **1. § 1.** *That the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security shall convene a stakeholder*
9 *work group to evaluate the feasibility of transferring the administrative and supervisory authority of the*
10 *State Board of Local and Regional Jails (the State Board) from the Department of Corrections to another*
11 *state agency or an independent oversight body. The work group shall be composed of interested parties and*
12 *stakeholders, including (i) representatives from civil rights organizations; (ii) advocates for incarcerated*
13 *persons and their families; (iii) formerly incarcerated persons; (iv) representatives from the Virginia*
14 *Association of Regional Jails and the Virginia Sheriffs' Association; and (v) experts in correctional*
15 *oversight and restorative justice. The work group shall evaluate the feasibility of various oversight models,*
16 *including the establishment of a fully autonomous ombudsman's office or the integration of the State Board*
17 *into the Office of the Department of Corrections Ombudsman within the Office of the State Inspector*
18 *General. The work group shall submit its plan, recommended a timeline, and recommend any necessary*
19 *legislative proposals for executing the transfer to the Chairs of the House Committee for Courts of Justice,*
20 *House Committee on Public Safety, Senate Committee for Courts of Justice, and Senate Committee on*
21 *Rehabilitation and Social Services by November 1, 2026.*

ENROLLED

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