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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1041**  
 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
 (Proposed by the Joint Conference Committee  
 on March 13, 2026)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Carr)

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Corrections; powers and duties of Director; Virginia Prison Education Task Force established; report.*

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

**1. That § 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

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

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

1. To supervise and manage the Department and its system of state correctional facilities;  
 2. To implement the standards and goals of the Board as formulated for local and community correctional programs and facilities and lock-ups;

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

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

a. The Director shall employ a Superintendent who will oversee the operation of educational and vocational programs in all institutions and community-based programs for adults as set forth in § 53.1-67.9 operated by the Department. The Department shall be designated as a local education agency (LEA) but shall not be eligible to receive state funds appropriated for direct aid to public education.

b. When the Department employs a teacher licensed by the Board of Education to provide instruction in the schools of the correctional centers, the Department of ~~Human Resource Management~~ *Education* shall establish 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.

c. (1) The Superintendent shall develop a functional literacy program for inmates testing below a selected grade level, which shall be at least at the ~~twelfth~~ *eighth* grade level *and include evidence-based literacy instruction, as defined in § 22.1-1.*

The program shall include guidelines for implementation and test administration, participation requirements, criteria for satisfactory completion, and a strategic plan for encouraging enrollment at an institution of higher education or an accredited vocational training program or other accredited continuing education program.

(2) *The Superintendent shall also:*

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

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

(c) *Track and publicly report at least annually the number of incarcerated individuals eligible for, enrolled in, and waitlisted for the literacy and education programs required to be implemented by subdivision (1).*

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

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

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

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

60 or incidental to the performance of the Department's duties and the execution of its powers under this title,  
61 upon determining that it shall be desirable to contract with a public or private entity for the provision of  
62 community-based residential services pursuant to Chapter 5 (§ 53.1-177 et seq.), the Director shall notify the  
63 local governing body of the jurisdiction in which the facility is to be located of the proposal and of the  
64 facility's proposed location and provide notice, where requested, to the chief law-enforcement officer for such  
65 locality when an offender is placed in the facility at issue;

66 c. Notwithstanding the Director's discretion to make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary  
67 or incidental to the performance of the Department's duties and the execution of its powers under this title,  
68 upon determining that it is necessary to transport Virginia prisoners through or to another state and for other  
69 states to transport their prisoners within the Commonwealth, the Director may execute reciprocal agreements  
70 with other states' corrections agencies governing such transports that shall include provisions allowing each  
71 state to retain authority over its prisoners while in the other state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

105 12. To prescribe and enforce rules prohibiting the possession of obscene materials, as defined in Article 5  
106 (§ 18.2-372 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, by prisoners incarcerated in state correctional facilities;

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

110 14. To promulgate regulations pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) to  
111 effectuate the provisions of Chapter 5.1 (§ 32.1-162.16 et seq.) of Title 32.1 for human research, as defined in  
112 § 32.1-162.16, to be conducted or authorized by the Department. The regulations shall require the human  
113 research committee to submit to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Director or his designee at  
114 least annually a report on the human research projects reviewed and approved by the committee and shall  
115 require the committee to report any significant deviations from the proposals as approved;

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

122 of age or older; and (iv) the street address of the correctional facility in which he was incarcerated on April 1  
123 of that year; and

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

127 **2. That the Department of Education shall, by November 1, 2026, propose a (i) review and update of**  
128 **the salary schedules for teachers licensed by the Board of Education and employed by the Department**  
129 **of Corrections to provide instruction in the schools of the correctional centers to be competitive with**  
130 **those in effect for the school division in which the correctional facility is located, was proposed by the**  
131 **engrossed version of House Bill 1041 during the 2026 Regular Session, and (ii) propose**  
132 **recommendations for the inclusion of such teacher salary increases in the appropriation act.**

133 **3. That the Department of Corrections shall implement the functional literacy program required to be**  
134 **implemented by subdivision 4 c of § 53.1-10 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, by**  
135 **January 1, 2027.**

136 **4. That there is hereby established the Virginia Prison Education Task Force (the Task Force) for the**  
137 **purpose of implementing a consistent education program across all state correctional facilities**  
138 **operated by the Department of Corrections. The Task Force shall be administered by the Secretary of**  
139 **Finance and shall consist of the following members: (i) two members of the Senate who are not**  
140 **members of the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; (ii)**  
141 **two members of the House of Delegates who are not members of the same political party, who shall be**  
142 **appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; (iii) the Secretary of Finance or his designee; (iv)**  
143 **the Secretary of Education or his designee; (v) the Secretary of Labor or his designee; (vi) the**  
144 **Secretary of Commerce and Trade or his designee; (vii) the Director of the Department of Corrections**  
145 **or his designee; (viii) the Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development and**  
146 **Advancement or his designee; (ix) the Chief Information Officer of the Virginia Information**  
147 **Technologies Agency or his designee; (x) the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System or**  
148 **his designee; (xi) the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development or his**  
149 **designee; (xii) the Research Director of the Virginia Office of Education Economics or his designee;**  
150 **(xiii) the President of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce or his designee; (xiv) the Executive Director**  
151 **of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia or his designee; (xv) the Superintendent of Public**  
152 **Instruction or his designee; (xvi) three formerly incarcerated individuals appointed by the Secretary of**  
153 **Finance, including one individual who was enrolled in the Department of Corrections' Adult Basic**  
154 **Education program while incarcerated, one individual who was enrolled in postsecondary coursework**  
155 **while incarcerated, and one individual who was not able to access education services while**  
156 **incarcerated; (xvii) a member of a faith-based organization with expertise in prison higher education**  
157 **appointed by the Secretary of Finance; (xviii) a member of a criminal justice advocacy organization**  
158 **appointed by the Secretary of Finance; (xix) a representative with expertise in management of state**  
159 **education and workforce data to be appointed by the Secretary of Finance; and (xx) any other**  
160 **stakeholders as may be appropriate appointed by the Secretary of Finance. The Secretary of Finance**  
161 **shall serve as the chair of the Task Force. A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute**  
162 **a quorum. The Task Force shall meet at least four times a year and upon the call of the chair or at the**  
163 **request of a majority of the members. The Task Force shall propose recommendations on the**  
164 **development and implementation of a consistent education program across all state correctional**  
165 **facilities operated by the Department of Corrections as proposed by the engrossed version of House**  
166 **Bill 1041 during the 2026 Regular Session. In proposing such recommendations, the Task Force shall**  
167 **(a) analyze existing and potential state and federal funding programs and develop a strategy to**  
168 **maximize securement and use of available funds; (b) assess additional budget requests to meet the**  
169 **goals of implementation of the education programs proposed by the engrossed version of House Bill**  
170 **1041 during the 2026 Regular Session; (c) review and support development of the interagency**  
171 **agreements between the Department of Corrections, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the**  
172 **Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, and the Chief Information Officer of the**  
173 **Virginia Information Technologies Agency as proposed by the engrossed version of House Bill 1041**  
174 **during the 2026 Regular Session; (d) propose ways to advise and support the Department of**  
175 **Corrections in developing a strategy to reduce waitlists for participation in the literacy and education**  
176 **programs proposed for implementation by the engrossed version of House Bill 1041 during the 2026**  
177 **Regular Session; (e) study and recommend the most effective ways to facilitate data collection, sharing,**  
178 **and analysis relating to prison education; (f) study and recommend the most effective ways to increase**  
179 **technological infrastructure in all state correctional facilities operated by the Department of**  
180 **Corrections to support education; (g) study and recommend the most effective ways to establish**  
181 **reentry supports to facilitate positive employment outcomes post-release; (h) propose best practices to**  
182 **conduct regular evaluations of program effectiveness, outcomes, and conditions to inform education**  
183 **program improvement; and (i) study and make recommendations for setting and meeting average**

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184 mandatory program hours in subsection C of § 53.1-32.1 of the Code of Virginia with available  
185 resources.

186 The Task Force shall establish a Higher Education Advisory Group (the Advisory Group), which shall,  
187 at a minimum, consist of the following members of the Task Force: the Commissioner of the  
188 Department of Workforce Development and Advancement, the Chancellor of the Virginia Community  
189 College System, the Director of the Department of Corrections, and the Chief Information Officer of  
190 the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, or their designees, a member of a faith-based  
191 organization with expertise in prison higher education, and an active circuit court judge. The Advisory  
192 Group shall propose recommendations on a potential interagency agreement between the Chancellor  
193 of the Virginia Community College System and the Department of Corrections as proposed in the  
194 engrossed version of House Bill 1041 during the 2026 Regular Session; necessary technology  
195 infrastructure to meet the needs of higher education staff in state correctional facilities operated by the  
196 Department of Corrections; and necessary technology tools to provide incarcerated students  
197 coursework commensurate with that provided to nonincarcerated students, including a learning  
198 management system, research library access, advising, synchronous teleconference instruction,  
199 application suites, and long-term storage for students' academic resource materials and work products.  
200 The Task Force shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on its activities,  
201 findings, and recommendations no later than November 1, 2026.