Budget Issues in Public Safety

Managing Growing Prison Populations;
State Police Budget Initiatives

Presentation to House Appropriations Committee
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Secretary of Public Safety
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Prison Population Forecast

State responsible offender population is projected to grow by 6,700 by 2013

- 2007 (actual) 38,007
- 2008 39,347
- 2009 40,305
- 2010 41,292
- 2011 42,399
- 2012 43,559
- 2013 44,744
New Prison Construction

• Forecast will require construction of one new prison each year for next 6 years

• New 1,000 bed medium security prison costs $100 million to construct

• Once opened, it costs $25 million per year to operate

• FY08 DOC operating appropriation is currently $1.025 billion

• Proposed budget increases appropriation to $1.1 billion in FY09
Jail Population Forecast

• 2007 local responsible population was 20,703

• As of June, 2007, jails also held 5,980 state responsible offenders

• Approximately 2,500 of these were considered “out of compliance”

• (As of January 18, 2008, out of compliance numbers had dropped to 1,637 as recently constructed prisons have opened and filled)

• Local responsible population is expected to grow an average of 4.8% per year for the next 6 years – average of 1,100 per year
Prison Releases

Of all inmates released in calendar year 2006, instant offenses for which committed:

- 28.3% for violent offense
- 22.7% for drug offense
- 49% for non-violent offense

(Those committed for non-violent offenses may have a prior conviction for a violent offense)
New Commitments

• Almost 13,100 new prison commitments in calendar 2006

• 42% had been in prison at some time in the past

• 46% were probation violators (9.5% technical; remainder committed new crime)
Reducing Recidivism

• If we reduce recidivism we can reduce growth in the prison and jail populations

• Reentry programming can reduce reoffending

• If we can develop appropriate alternative sanctions for technical probation violators we can reduce growth in prison and jail populations
  ➢ Without putting the public at risk
Recidivism

• Virginia DOC measures recidivism as the percentage of inmates released in a year who are recommitted to DOC within 3 years

• Virginia’s rate is under 29%

• 30 states measure recidivism this way

• Virginia had 8th lowest rate among those 30 states
New/Expanded Reentry Programs

- Expanded DCE vocational and life skills
- Transitional community therapeutic residential programs
- Cognitive based pre-release programs (Southampton - women; Powhatan – men)
- Dillwyn Transition Cooperative transitional program
- Jail based reentry
- PREPS (Buckingham) – preparing for release
- VASAVOR – Fairfax and Newport News community programming for violent offenders who complete their sentences
- VCCW (women’s) prerelease program
- Wallens Ridge transitional unit
- DOC Community Mental Health positions
- Specialized transition coordinators – DOC and DCE
- Career Readiness Certificate program (DCE)
- Community-based pilot reentry council programs – Local DSS agencies lead
- And other Evidence Based Practices efforts...
Improving Data

• Need up to date, accessible data to assess needs and monitor effectiveness

• DOC, DCJS, Sentencing Commission, DJJ working together to develop standard cross matches for earlier data on rearrest, reconviction and recommitment – for prisons and jails

• DOC developing new automated system to track inmates and probates/parolees
Prisoner Reentry Amendments

- **Transitional P&P Officers** - $856K (09) + $1.1 million (FY10) GF; 10 positions [Specialized probation officers to work with inmates near time of release to prepare them for going home to Tidewater and Richmond, assess service needs and plan for service delivery.]

- **Prison Transition Centers** - $596K (09) + $761K (10); 12 positions [Establish three 100 bed units in existing prisons for inmates within 12 months of release for intensive cognitive, treatment, socialization, and life skills programming.]
Reentry Amendments (Continued)

• **Violator Center** - $178K (09) + $236K (10); 4 positions [establish, in existing facility, a 100 bed unit for housing technical violators. Judges could commit offenders to this program for 6-12 months; would include intensive cognitive and behavioral therapy. This option provides judges with a higher-end alternative sanction, with treatment, prior to revoking probation.]

• **Language** – New prison in Charlotte County would include at least one dormitory housing unit for transition and/or technical violators.

• **Language** – DOC would be able to place violators, who volunteer, into underutilized detention and diversion centers as high-end sanction prior to returning him to court. Judge and Sentencing Commission would be notified of all such placements.
Reentry Amendments (Continued)

- **Language** – Pilot program; work with Supreme Court to allow judges to impose sentence for non-violent offenses involving drug use, and stipulate that DOC place him/her into therapeutic community style substance abuse program. Upon satisfactory behavior and completion of 18 month+ program, judge may opt to suspend remainder of sentence and place offender into probation.

- **Expand community based programs to divert individuals with mental health needs from jails** (includes aftercare for those released from jails) - $3 million per year (DMHMRSAS).

- **Support for 5 local reentry pilot collaborative programs** - $500K per year (DSS).
Housing Out-of-State Prisoners

• Addressing need for budget reductions

• Generate $19 million per year next biennium by charging to allow other states/federal government to house offenders in Virginia prisons

• Requires DOC to continue to operate over 900 “temporary emergency” additional bed added in past to reduce jail backlog – were to be included only until new prison construction was completed (will now continue for additional 2 years)
Out-of-State Prisoners (Continued)

• Interest expressed by 2 jurisdictions for total of 500 inmates – working with their governing bodies

• Interest from ICE – Homeland Security budget passed by Congress, but awaiting specific breakdown of budget for ICE
State Police Fuel Costs

• Increased fuel costs
  ➢ $2.4 million for FY2008 (Caboose Bill);
  ➢ $2.7 million for FY2009
Replacement of Helicopters

- Language to authorize VSP to initiate the purchase of two helicopters (Lynchburg and Abingdon)

- Existing funding for debt service will cover new debt beginning with 2010 delivery
Enhance Highway Safety Enforcement

• Addition of 10 new trooper positions
  ➢ $1.4 million in FY2009
  ➢ $843,360 in FY2010

• Relocate 25 positions from inspection program to highways
  ➢ Modify process for visiting and inspecting Licensed Inspection Stations
Meeting Needs with OxyContin Forfeiture Funding

• Overview of OxyContin case

  - Joint Task Force included US Attorney for Western District of Virginia; Attorney General of Virginia; FBI; DEA; VSP; West Virginia State Police; and Local Police

  - VSP share of settlement was $44.2 million

  - Restrictions on use of funding
OxyContin Settlement (Continued)

- Replace or improve central criminal repositories - $700,000 in FY2009; $1.5 million in FY2010

- Data bases support state, local and federal law enforcement operating in Virginia 24/7
  - Sex Offender Registry
  - AFIS
  - Firearms Transaction Processing
  - Tactical Intelligence
  - Virginia Criminal Information Network
OxyContin Settlement (Continued)

- Replacement of Criminal History System - $2.4 million in FY2009; $3.3 million in FY2010

- Enhance Incident Based Reporting System - $800,000 in FY2009; $400,000 in FY2010

- Enhance STARS – additional equipment not previously funded - $2.2 million in FY2010

- Equip forensic laboratory - $1.0 million in FY2009

- Develop Virginia Intelligence Management System - $8.5 million in FY2009
OxyContin Settlement
Capital Outlay

- Construct Public Safety Driver Training Facility at Ft. Pickett – capital outlay appropriation of $21.4 million for biennium

- Construct State Police Garage – to service all state vehicles operating STARS radios - $2.0 million for biennium