



VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL JAILS, INC.

Virginia Association of Regional Jails

2019 Budget Amendment: Increase the entry-level pay for regional jails commensurate with deputy sheriffs

**Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request: Increase the entry-level pay for regional jails
commensurate with deputy sheriffs.**

Rationale:

- Chapter Two, the adopted 2018-2020 budget, contains an entry-level salary increase for deputy sheriffs of \$871 effective February 1, 2019.
- The adjustment does not apply to regional jail officers although the 22-regional jails face the same recruitment, training and retention problems as all other public safety agencies including local sheriffs' offices that operate jails.
- Historically, pay increases have applied to sheriffs' offices and regional jails to maintain salary equity.
- Corrections work, whether in a local or regional jail, is dangerous.
- Regional jails are dealing with higher turnover rates than sheriffs' offices. The rate was 12 percent higher in fiscal year 2017.
- Regional jails regularly house more inmates than local jails. The rate was more than nine percent higher in May of 2018.

Estimated cost: The FY 2020 cost is \$2,626,315 with an effective date of July 1. The annualized cost including benefits is \$2,865,071.

About VARJ: Initiated in 1988, VARJ is the statewide association of the 22-regional jails. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, two or more counties or cities may establish a regional jail. Some regional jails replace local jails, i.e. the member localities do not operate a jail. And some regional jails serve as central collection points for their members' jails. In this latter case, the regional jail often manages a significant number of people with difficult medical and behavioral conditions.

Contact: Mike Edwards, Kemper Consulting: medwards@kemperconsult.com / Cell: 804/698 0215