



VIRGINIA HOUSE  
APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN LUKE E. TORIAN

January 14, 2026

# PUBLIC SAFETY 101



# PURVIEW OF SUBCOMMITTEE

- Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
  - Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council
  - Department of Corrections
  - Department of Criminal Justice Services
  - Department of Emergency Management
  - Department of Fire Programs
  - Department of Forensic Science
  - Department of Juvenile Justice
  - Department of State Police
  - Virginia Parole Board
- Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
  - Department of Veterans' Services
  - Department of Military Affairs
- Independent Agencies
  - Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority
  - Cannabis Control Authority

# DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

- DOC is the largest public safety agency, with more than 13,000 employees and a total budget of approximately \$1.6 billion in FY 2026
  - DOC is one of the largest primarily general fund agencies, with only \$76 million of total appropriation coming from nongeneral fund sources
- DOC houses more than 23,000 individuals in 25 major correctional institutions, 8 field units, 3 work centers, and 5 Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP)
  - Institutions have 9,500 employees, including over 5,000 correctional officers
  - The FY 2026 budget included \$1.2 billion for the operation of the Department's secure correctional institutions and inmate medical care
- DOC oversees approximately 62,000 individuals on probation and parole
  - More than 1,200 employees in 43 Probation and Parole District Offices
  - The Division of Community Corrections had a total budget of \$131.8 million in FY 2026

# DOC BUDGET AND POLICY ISSUES

- Inmate medical costs have risen substantially over the past decade, and now represent more than one-fifth of the cost of operating secure correctional facilities
- Correctional officer turnover is substantially higher than the overall rate seen for state employees, and recruitment has been difficult for the Department
- The Department's physical plant is aging, and will require life and safety improvements over the coming decade, as well as rehabilitation and replacement to meet the changing needs of an aging inmate population with greater medical needs

# DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

- In FY 2026, State Police had a total budget of \$558 million, of which \$437.5 million was from general funds
  - Law enforcement and highway patrol activities totaled \$390.1 million
    - Includes activities as varied as highway patrol, criminal investigations, drug enforcement activities, and the sex offender registry program
  - Information technology expenditures were also substantial, and cost \$121.4 million
- The Department has a statewide scope of operations across 7 Divisions, and 48 area offices
  - The Department has 3,000 employees, including more than 2,100 sworn officers and nearly 900 civilians
- Turnover, starting salaries, and salary compression have been an ongoing concern
  - The Commonwealth made a substantial investment in FY 2023 to implement a new state policy pay plan, which included a 12.7% increase in starting pay, salary decompression, and the implementation of a step pay scale based on rank and years of service

# DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

- DJJ's general fund budget totaled \$263.4 million in FY 2026
  - Operates a secure juvenile correctional center at Bon Air housing more than 200 juvenile offenders
  - Operates probation offices and court services units statewide, serving thousands of juveniles each year
- In Spring of 2023 DJJ adopted revised length of stay guidelines that increased the average length of stay for juveniles held under indeterminate sentences
  - Subsequent population growth has exceeded current physical, programmatic, and staffing capacity of Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center
  - Changes in staffing, funding, and service delivery will likely be ongoing discussions with the incoming administration

# DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

- DCJS plays several roles within Virginia's public safety system
  - Distributing federal and state aid to localities, state agencies, and non-profits in criminal justice areas
  - Training, assistance, and other services to criminal justice system
  - Establishing and enforcing minimum training standards for law enforcement and private security personnel
  - Licensing and regulating private security industry, bail bondsman, and similar professions
  - Conducting research and evaluation on criminal justice issues
- In FY 2026, the general fund budget for DCJS totals \$381.2 million
  - The largest portion, \$229.7 million, was for financial assistance to localities with police departments ("HB 599" funding)
  - The general fund budget for Financial Assistance for Administration of Justice Services totaled \$136.6 million
- Substantial general fund investments have been made in recent years for new and expanded grant programs, including support for school resource officers, victim services, and community violence intervention programs

# ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL AUTHORITY

- The Authority is responsible for operating state's wholesale and retail monopolies for distilled spirits, as well as enforcing state laws regarding the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages
  - The Authority has 4,400 employees and operates 399 stores across the Commonwealth
- The Department had gross sales of \$1.5 billion in FY 2025
  - After deduction of costs, ABC returned \$242.1 million in net profits
  - ABC also collects sales and other taxes on sales on alcohol sales, totaling \$386 million