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CHAIRMAN

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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Compensation Board

P.O. Box 710
Richmond, Virginia 23218-0710

March 8, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Compensation Board Members

FROM: Robyn M. de Socio, Executive Secretary

RE: 2024 Conferees Report

Following is the summary of funding and language amendments recommended by the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Budget Conferees to the current year and biennial budget funding proposals in HB29 and HB30, respectively, impacting Constitutional Officers and the Compensation Board. Also included is a summary of items proposed in the Governor's Budget Bill as introduced that remain unchanged, however items that are solely technical in nature are not listed.

FY24 Caboose Bill (HB29)

Sheriffs and Regional Jails/Jail Funding

- A Governor's Budget Bill proposal to reduce funding in the amount of \$776,393 based on the elimination of operating funds associated with the Hampton Roads Regional Jail, which is scheduled to close by April, 2024, remains unchanged in the Conference Report;
- A Governor's Budget Bill proposed \$15 million reduction to jail inmate per diem funding based on actual inmate population reductions and projected growth in jail populations in FY24 remains unchanged in the Conference Report.

FY23/FY24 Biennial Budget Bill (HB30)

All Constitutional Officers

- Language and funding is included to support 3% across-the-board salary increases effective July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025, for constitutional officers, regional jails and their employees, provided that the governing authority of such employees uses such funds to support these across-the-board salary increases;
- Language and funding is provided to support adjustments to Compensation Board funded minimum salary levels based on changes to the state minimum wage from the current rate of \$12 per hour to \$13.50 per hour on January 1, 2025, and to \$15 per hour on January 1, 2026, contingent upon the passage of HB1/SB1 providing for such increases;

- If HB1/HB2 is not approved, language and funding is provided to support a one-time 1.375% salary bonus for Constitutional Officers, Regional Jail Superintendents, Finance Directors and their Compensation Board funded employees in the second year of the biennium, effective December 1, 2025, provided that the governing authority of such employees use such funds to support the provision of a bonus;
- Governor's Budget Bill funding of \$159,889 to offset previously applied policy-based adjustments to the salaries of specific elected Constitutional Officers due to exceeding population thresholds set out in the Appropriation Act remains unchanged in the Conference Report;
- Governor's Budget Bill language proposed to move projected savings of \$9.4 million accruing from vacant positions in constitutional offices in the first year to a reserve fund, and to remove equivalent funds in the second year, whereby such amounts in the reserve fund can be utilized as needed to reimburse expenses incurred within established budgets for constitutional officers if vacancy levels are reduced and vacant positions are filled, remains unchanged in the Conference Report.

Sheriffs and Regional Jails

- Language and non-general funds of \$500,000 proposed on a one-time basis in FY25 in the Governor's Budget Bill to fund a jail-based substance use disorder treatment program has been removed and transferred to the Department of Criminal Justice Services' Virginia Opioid Use Reduction and Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Transition Fund. Combined with other amounts, this results in a total appropriation in the Fund under DCJS of \$2 million for one year in FY25;
- Language and \$185,665 in each year of the biennium is provided to support a ten percent increase in the cost of the services provided by the Virginia Center for Policing Innovation. These services implement and maintain the interface between all local and regional jails in the Commonwealth and the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) system, provide for SAVIN program coordination, maintain the interface between SAVIN and the Virginia Sex Offender Registry, provides for automated protective order notifications. Additionally, it authorizes the Virginia State Police to provide information to authorized dealers and/or those who have registered to receive notifications through the Virginia VINE Protective Order Notification System;
- Language is provided requiring the Compensation Board to report on retention data for deputies with law enforcement duties compared to deputies without law enforcement duties, including information on local salary supplements. The report shall include information on the distribution of time allocated for law enforcement, court security and jail responsibilities in localities in which the sheriff has law enforcement authority. The report shall also include data on the degree to which individual deputies are moved across the different responsibilities or assigned to one specific responsibility in the sheriff's office. The report shall be provided to the Governor, the Chairs of the House Appropriation and Senate Finance and Appropriation Committees, and the Director, Department of Planning and Budget no later than October 15, 2023;
- Governor's Budget Bill proposals to remove savings of \$15,730,652 due to the closures of Bristol City Jail and Hampton Roads Regional Jail remain unchanged in the Conference Report.

Jails

- Governor's Budget Bill proposed \$15 million reduction to per diem funding in FY25 and FY26 based on the reductions in forecasted inmate populations remains unchanged in the Conference Report.

Commonwealth's Attorneys

- Additional funding of \$752,147 in FY25 and \$828,042 in FY26 is included in the Conference Report to provide 18 paralegal positions for Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices that are required under Compensation Board staffing standards.

Circuit Court Clerks

- See below item under Administration regarding a workload study;
- Language related to the withholding of salary increases for Circuit Court Clerks where corrective action has not been taken on internal control audit findings was amended to allow consideration by the Compensation Board of mitigating circumstances with respect to office size and staffing capacity;
- Language was approved to extend the validity of subdivision plats until December 31, 2024 that, due to the Judicial Emergency from March through July, 2020, were unable to be recorded by July 1, 2020;
- Governor's Budget Bill proposed \$75,000 reduction from eliminating an online foreclosure listing pilot program in James City County Circuit Court Clerk's office remains unchanged in the Conference Report.

Treasurers, Finance Directors, and Commissioners of Revenue

- No program specific changes were included in the Conference Report or in the Governor's Budget Bill recommendations.

Administration

- Language and \$400,000 in funding is provided in the first year for the Compensation Board, in coordination with the Virginia Circuit Court Clerks' Association, to conduct a workload study and examine the staffing standards used to determine and distribute funding and positions allocated to circuit court clerks' offices and submit a status report to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees by November 1, 2024, and a final report by November 1, 2025.

MEMO: Compensation Board

March 8, 2024

Page 4

cc: Compensation Board Staff
The Honorable Lyn McDermid, Secretary of Administration
The Honorable Lenny Millholland, President, Virginia Sheriffs' Association
The Honorable Anton Bell, President, Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys
The Honorable Michael Stevens, President, Treasurers' Association of Virginia
The Honorable Ann Burkholder, President, Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia
The Honorable Teresa Dobbins, President, Virginia Circuit Court Clerks' Association
The Honorable Georgette Phillips, President, Virginia Association of Local Elected Constitutional Officers
Derek Almarode, President, Virginia Association of Regional Jails
Michelle Gowdy, Executive Director, Virginia Municipal League
Dean Lynch, Executive Director, Virginia Association of Counties
John Jones, Executive Director, Virginia Sheriffs' Association
Amanda Howie, Executive Director, Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys
Alan Albert, O'Hagan Meyer
Patrice Lewis, Gentry Locke
Joe Horbal, Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia
Michael Edwards, Kemper Consulting
Jane Chambers, Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council
Dylan Bishop, Virginia Law Enforcement Sheriffs
Janet Areson, Virginia Municipal League
Katie Boyle, Virginia Association of Counties
Banci Tewolde, Associate Director, Department of Planning and Budget
Kelly Richards, Analyst, Department of Planning and Budget