



State Assistance to Local Law Enforcement (HB 599 program)

The budget does not comply with the required funding for this program. These amendments ensure this essential program for localities is funded.

Amendments

- **HB/SB 29:** [408 #2h](#) (Brewer); [408#1s](#) (Edwards); [408#2s](#) (Lucas); [408#3s](#) (Reeves)
- **HB/SB 30:** [410 #2h](#) (Brewer); [410#1s](#) (Reeves); [410#2s](#) (Edwards); [410#3s](#) (Lucas); [410#4s](#) (Newman)

Background

- A total of 175 localities – including all cities as well as counties and towns with police departments – receive HB 599 funding to help support public safety, which is a basic government service.
- A majority of Virginians are protected by local police departments, versus sheriff's departments.
- Localities receiving HB 599 funding must comply with state-established training and reporting standards and must certify every year that they are not using state funding to supplant local funding for police departments.
- The *Code of Virginia* states that HB 599 funds are to grow at the same rate as growth in state general fund revenue collections. The introduced budget did not abide by this requirement; it froze funding at the FY20 level.
- While funding for sheriffs' departments (i.e., deputies) falls short of the Compensation Board's staffing standards, the funding level is at least projected to keep pace with inflation, increasing by 20.3 percent from FY07 through FY22. The same cannot be said for HB 599 funding for local police departments.
- Localities have stepped up to meet local public safety needs, increasing their local contributions to law enforcement by more than 30 percent from FY07 to FY21.

What these amendments would accomplish

For HB/SB29, each amendment listed would provide \$38.4 million in the current fiscal year (FY22) to increase funding for the State Aid to Localities with Police Departments ("HB 599") Program to reflect the general fund revenue growth rate of 14.4 percent in FY21 and 4.9 percent in FY22, as directed by § [9.1-165](#), et seq., *Code of Virginia*.

For HB/SB 30, each amendment listed would provide \$49.4 million in the first year (FY23) and \$59.4 million in the second year (FY24) in additional funding to police departments by acknowledging the state general fund growth rate in FY21 (14.4 percent); FY22 (4.9 percent); and projected growth rates in FY23 (4.8 percent) and in FY24 (4.2 percent) as directed by § [9.1-165](#), et seq., *Code of Virginia*.

Why VML supports these amendments

The amendments are necessary because the introduced budget did not comply with the *Code of Virginia* requirements for funding this program.