

**REPORT OF THE
VIRGINIA ADVISORY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON
SERVICES TO YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS
TO
THE GOVERNOR
AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 20

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF PURCHASES AND SUPPLY
RICHMOND
1979**

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Report of the
Virginia Advisory Legislative Council On
Services to Youthful Offenders

To

The Governor and the General Assembly of Virginia

Richmond, Virginia

January 1, 1979

To: Honorable John N. Dalton, Governor of Virginia

and

The General Assembly of Virginia

Introduction

The Virginia Advisory Legislative Council Committee to Study Services to Youthful Offenders conducted its study pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution No. 4 of the 1978 Session, requesting the Council to continue its study on services to youthful offenders focusing on monitoring the administration and operation of the Rehabilitative School Authority. The resolution follows:

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Requesting the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council to continue its study on services to youthful offenders focusing on monitoring the administration and operation of the Rehabilitative School Authority.

WHEREAS, during nineteen hundred seventy-seven the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council conducted a study of services to youthful offenders throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in the course of its study the Council investigated the administration and the operation of the Rehabilitative School Authority; and

WHEREAS, further observation and monitoring of the Rehabilitative School Authority is needed to determine the most practicable solutions to the problems disclosed by the work of the Council and to assure that the educational programs of the Rehabilitative School Authority efficaciously meet the needs of incarcerated young people throughout the State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council is hereby requested to continue its study of services to youthful offenders concentrating on monitoring the Rehabilitative School Authority.

The Council shall make such recommendations as it deems appropriate to the Governor and General Assembly not later than January one, nineteen hundred seventy-nine.

History

The VALC Committee to Study Services to Youthful Offenders was initially appointed and organized in 1972. The Council appointed Senator Lawrence Douglas Wilder of Richmond to act as chairman of the Committee. Senator Wilder, with the approval of the Council, appointed the following members to work with him in the 1978 study: Mr. France M. Brinkley of Richmond; Mrs. Virginia Crockford of Richmond; Mrs. Margaret Dungee of Glen Allen; Senator William E. Fears of Accomac; Mr. Anthony C. Gaudio of Falls Church; Mr. Leonard W. Lambert of Richmond; The Reverend J. Fletcher Lowe, Jr. of Richmond; Delegate Dorothy S. McDiarmid of Fairfax; Delegate Theodore V. Morrison, Jr. of Newport News; Delegate Frank M. Slayton of South Boston; and Senator Stanley C. Walker of Norfolk.

Findings and Recommendations

The focus of the Study on Services to Youthful Offenders during 1978 was to monitor the Rehabilitative School Authority to assure that its educational programs "efficaciously meet the needs of incarcerated young people throughout the State."

Meetings and correspondence with officials in both the Department of Corrections and the Rehabilitative School Authority indicate that the reorganization of the Department of Corrections which occurred in the summer of 1978 will not be deleterious to the relationship between the Rehabilitative School Authority and the Department of Corrections.

Terrell Don Hutto, Director of the Department of Corrections, assured the Committee that "a close working relationship" between the Rehabilitative School Authority and the Division of Institutional Services "has already been fostered and will be enhanced by reorganization." He adds, however, that, "Planning for client educational programs in the community environment may mean a restructuring of coordinative relationships in the future."

The Committee learned that a component of the reorganization of the Department of Corrections is the inclusion of one training specialist in each of the five regional offices of the Department. Among the training specialist's responsibilities is coordination with the staff of the Rehabilitative School Authority.

To enhance the relationship among the educational programs offered in State institutions by the Rehabilitative School Authority and the newly reorganized Department of Corrections, the Council recommends the development of a closer liaison between the Board of the Rehabilitative School Authority and the State Board of Corrections.

In addition, the Council supports the concept of the creation of a Commission on Children's Services by the General Assembly. The Commission would be charged with considering the need to establish an operating agency for children's services offered throughout the Commonwealth by various State agencies. Among the services to be considered in the purview of the Commission's work are the responsibility for all children's residential services, encompassing learning centers in the present corrections system and educational programs for children in the Rehabilitative School Authority. Consequently, the concerns of the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council Committee to Study Services to Youthful Offenders will continue to receive the attention of concerned legislators and members of the executive branch who are devoted to the provision of services of the highest quality to the young people of Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Douglas Wilder, Chairman

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