



VIRGINIA STATE CRIME COMMISSION

2025 INTERIM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Virginia State Crime Commission was established within the legislative branch of government in 1966. The Crime Commission is a criminal justice agency (Va. Code § 9.1-101) that is authorized to study, report, and make recommendations on all areas of public safety and protection (Va. Code § 30-156 *et seq.*). The Crime Commission consists of thirteen members – six members of the House of Delegates, three members of the Senate, three non-legislative citizen members appointed by the Governor, and the Attorney General or his designee.

During 2025, staff continued its work on 2024 [budget language](#) that directed the Crime Commission to identify cases at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science (DFS) where Mary Jane Burton performed testing or analysis. Staff has identified 7,581 cases where Ms. Burton performed work. To date, staff has reviewed and cross-validated 92% of these cases (6,955 of 7,581).

In addition, legislation enacted in 2025 ([HB 2730/SB 1465](#)) directs the Crime Commission to designate a panel to review certain cases where Ms. Burton was the forensic examiner and the case resulted in the conviction of an individual who is currently incarcerated, or who was executed or exonerated, and cases where Ms. Burton testified, regardless of the final disposition. The purpose of the panel review is to determine whether Ms. Burton engaged in a pattern of misconduct. The Chair of the Crime Commission appointed a Review Panel Subcommittee to provide guidance on logistics for the panel, including an application and selection process. Staff began collecting court, law enforcement, and prosecutor records for the panel to review, as well as continued to consult with DFS, the University of Virginia Innocence Project, the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project, and other interested stakeholders.

The Crime Commission undertook several new studies in 2025, including (i) [electronic records](#), (ii) firearm purchaser licenses, and (iii) photo speed monitoring devices. Further, staff continued work on prior studies, including (i) sealing of criminal records, (ii) use of surveillance technology by law enforcement, (iii) use of artificial intelligence by law enforcement, and (iv) use of automatic license plate recognition by law enforcement. Finally, staff continued to consult with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) on a sex trafficked youth pilot [program](#) and participated as a member of the Virginia Pretrial Advancement Team that was formed as part of the DCJS pilot of the Public Safety Assessment (PSA).

The Crime Commission held meetings on August 19th, November 19th, and December 2nd. At the August meeting, members heard guest presentations on photo speed monitoring devices, impaired driving, sealing of criminal records implementation, and RapBack implementation. At the November meeting, members heard staff's presentation on firearm purchaser licenses, as well as guest presentations on firearm injuries, gun related deaths, Virginia's Firearms Transaction Center,



VIRGINIA STATE CRIME COMMISSION

and Ceasefire Virginia.

At the December meeting, staff presented on photo speed monitoring devices and provided an update on the Mary Jane Burton Case File Review and Review Panel, and DCJS gave an overview of the findings from its 2025 Surveillance Technology Equipment Reporting Survey, which was mandated by Va. Code [§ 9.1-116.10](#). Virginia State Police also updated members on the implementation of the sealing legislation. Presentations from these meetings are available on the [agency website](#).

The Executive Director of the Crime Commission serves as the designee for the Chair of the Crime Commission on the Forensic Science Board, Indigent Defense Commission, and Advisory Committee on Sexual and Domestic Violence. In addition, the Executive Director serves as an ad hoc member of the State Child Fatality Review Team pursuant to Va. Code [§ 32.1-283.1](#) and advisory board member of the Virginia State Police Witness Protection Program.

The Crime Commission will publish its 2025 Annual Report by June 30, 2026. Additional information about the Crime Commission is available on the agency website at <http://vscc.virginia.gov>.