



# VIRGINIA STATE CRIME COMMISSION

## 2021 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 as defined by Virginia Code § 9.1-101, and is authorized to study, report, and make recommendations on all areas of public safety and protection (Virginia 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 2021, Crime Commission staff completed its work and published the final report on the *Virginia Pre-Trial Data Project*, which included both statewide and locality level descriptive findings.<sup>1</sup> Legislation enacted during the 2021 General Assembly Session requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to continue this *Project* on an annual basis by collecting and reporting on pretrial data and making such data publicly available, excluding any personal and case identifying information.

Staff also continued its work on the expungement and sealing of criminal records and parole. Additionally, staff was directed to examine secured bond and diversion, which stemmed from previous studies of the overall pretrial process.

The Crime Commission held meetings on November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup> to review study findings. At the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, staff presented on the *Virginia Pre-Trial Data Project*, secured bond, and diversion. Three other entities also provided presentations on diversion. At the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, staff and key stakeholders updated Commission members on the expungement and sealing of criminal records. In addition, the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia advised members of the findings and policy considerations stemming from the *Appointment of Counsel at First Appearance Work Group*. Finally, the Department of Criminal Justice Services provided an update on pretrial services agencies. At the conclusion of the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, Commission members unanimously endorsed staff's recommendation to create two new positions at the Indigent Defense Commission to provide training and support for public defenders and court-appointed counsel in regard to expungement and sealing.

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.

The Crime Commission will publish its 2021 Annual Report by June 30, 2022. Additional information about the Crime Commission is available on the agency website at <http://vscc.virginia.gov>.

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<sup>1</sup> The *Virginia Pre-Trial Data Project: Final Report*, along with links to the descriptive findings at the statewide and locality level for each individual locality in Virginia, can be found on the Crime Commission's website at <http://vscc.virginia.gov/virginiapretrialdataproject.asp>