Department of Planning and Budget
2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB135

House of Origin	☒	Introduced	☐	Substitute	☐	Engrossed
Second House	☐	In Committee	☐	Substitute	☐	Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Edwards

3. **Committee:** Rehabilitation and Social Services

4. **Title:** Virginia Parole Board; increases membership, records, monthly report

5. **Summary:** The proposed legislation increases from five to up to 11 the permissible number of members to be appointed to the Virginia Parole Board (the Board). Additionally, the bill requires the Board to include in its monthly report regarding actions taken by the Board on the parole of prisoners the number of votes in favor of granting or denying parole of each prisoner, and to ensure that any records, reports, or other documents used to determine a person's suitability for parole be made available for review by such person or his counsel pursuant to Board regulations. The bill also contains technical amendments.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: Yes. Item 433.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Item 8 below).

8. **Fiscal Implications:** Currently, the Parole Board (Board) consists of five members appointed by the Governor. At this time, it is not clear how many additional Board members would be appointed and if such members would be full-time or part-time. Section §4-6.01 (Employee Compensation) of the Introduced Budget (HB3/SB30) sets the compensation of a full-time member of the Parole Board at $119,014. Accounting for fringe and health benefits, the estimated cost for each additional full-time member is $164,210. The Board reports that the cost of a part-time board member is $62,089 ($57,677 for salary and benefits).

   Currently, there are three support technicians for the five existing Board members. If additional members are appointed by the Governor, the Board believes it will need up to two additional technicians to support the newly appointed Board members. The annual cost for each full-time program support technician is $66,555 ($41,012 for salary and benefits). In addition to entering the actions and deliberations of members into the Department of Corrections Information System (CORIS), technicians are also tasked with transcribing and entering into CORIS each Board member's appointments with constituents supporting or opposing pardons for individual inmates slated for a parole interview.

   The bill amends subsection 7 of § 53.1-136 by adding to the existing reporting requirements in the report published by the fifteenth day of each month, to also include the number of Board members who voted to grant parole and the number of members who voted to deny parole to each prisoner considered for parole in the report. At present, the report provides:

Department of Corrections inmate number, name, case type (regular or geriatric), decision date, decision, certification date, age, sex, race, reasons for not granting parole, estimated time served, jurisdiction and convicted offenses.

The Board reports that the proposed amendment to reporting requirements will require a program change to the Department of Corrections Information System (CORIS) in order to extract voting data by individual Board members. This change is expected to cost approximately $108,000, which will be paid to the CORIS vendor, ABILIS. The Board states that this cost is estimated based on charges for similar changes required in the past. It is expected that this one-time cost can be absorbed by the Department of Corrections (DOC). However, the cumulative costs associated with other bills that are passed during the 2022 General Assembly session may have to be addressed if multiple or complex changes to CORIS are ultimately required. Additionally, due to the volume of changes currently being made to CORIS, DOC may not be able to make changes required by this bill immediately upon its passage.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Parole Board; Department of Corrections.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** None.