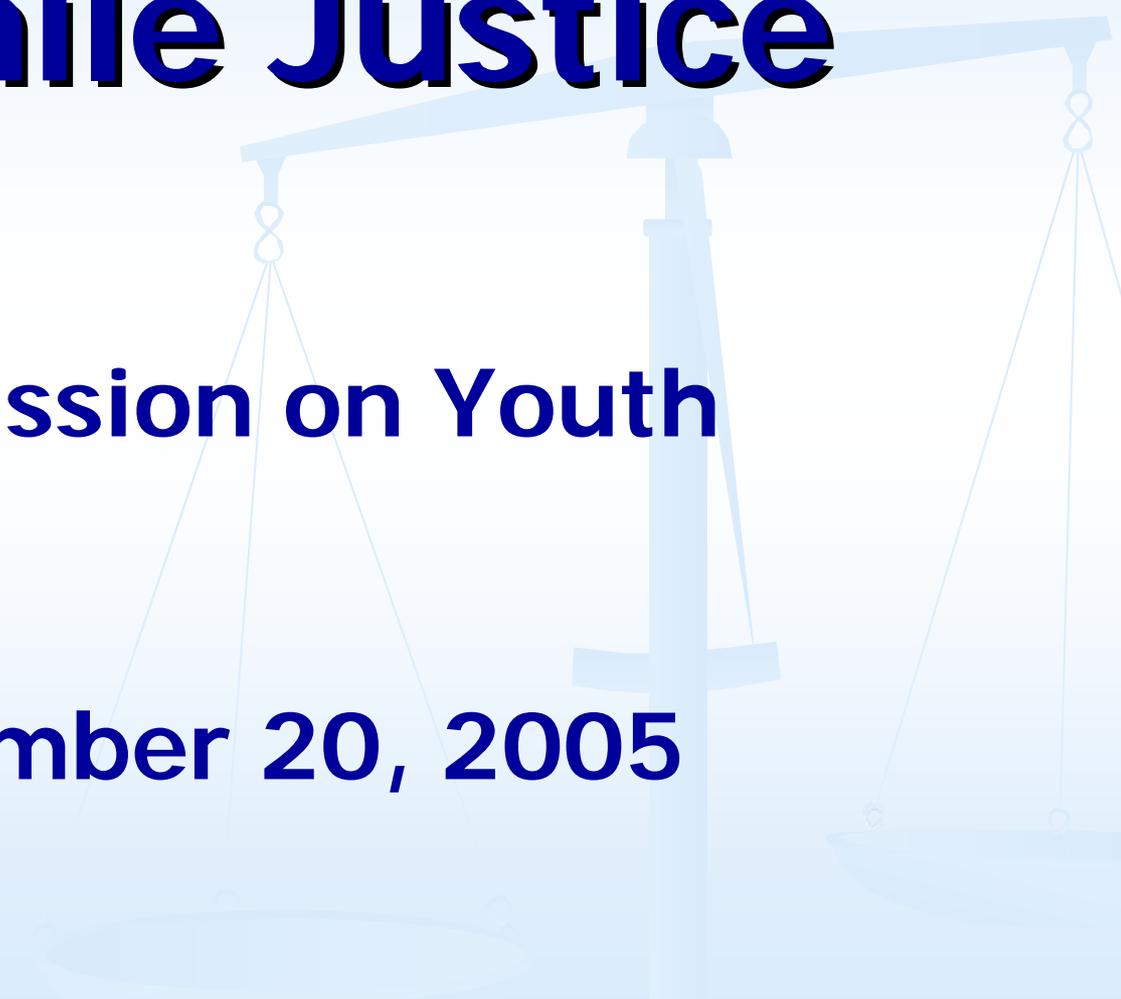


Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice



Commission on Youth

September 20, 2005

HB 2657 (Delegate BaCote)

Juvenile work release program established.

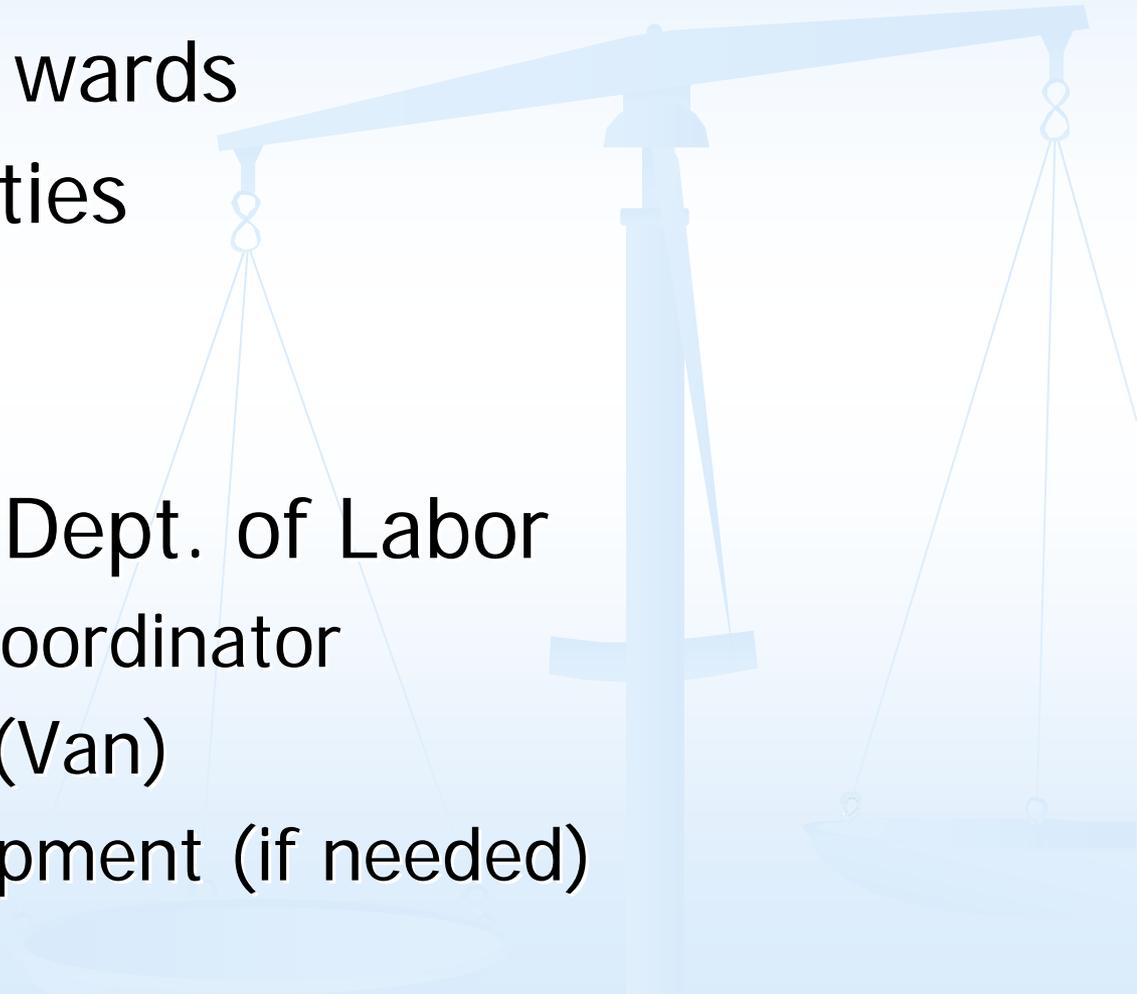
- Requires the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide opportunities for committed juveniles to work and participate in career training or technical education programs outside of the correctional facility.
- Sets forth eligibility criteria for work release.
- Directs the Department to promulgate regulations (within 280 days) and allows for a pilot program at one location beginning July 1, 2005.

The Department shall report to the General Assembly concerning the implementation of the pilot program in November 2005.

- Aside from the pilot program, the bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2006.

Work Release Pilot Program

- Natural Bridge JCC
- Capacity – 8-10 wards
- Work Opportunities
 - Business
 - Industrial
- Funded by U.S. Dept. of Labor
 - Work Release Coordinator
 - Transportation (Van)
 - Supplies & Equipment (if needed)



Selection & Placement

■ Selection Criteria

■ Age

- At least 17 years
- Those of mandatory school age must attend school and work only when the job does not interfere

■ Custody Classification Level 1 or Level 2

■ No major institutional offense within 90 days

■ Length of Stay

■ Indeterminate Wards

- Less than 12 months remaining prior to early release date
- Must have completed all mandatory treatment

■ Determinate Wards

- May participate only with approval of the court
- May be recommended to the court when they are within 12 months of release

■ Placement Process

■ Ward Applies or is Recommended by Counselor

■ Approved by Facility Administration

■ Approved by Departmental Administration

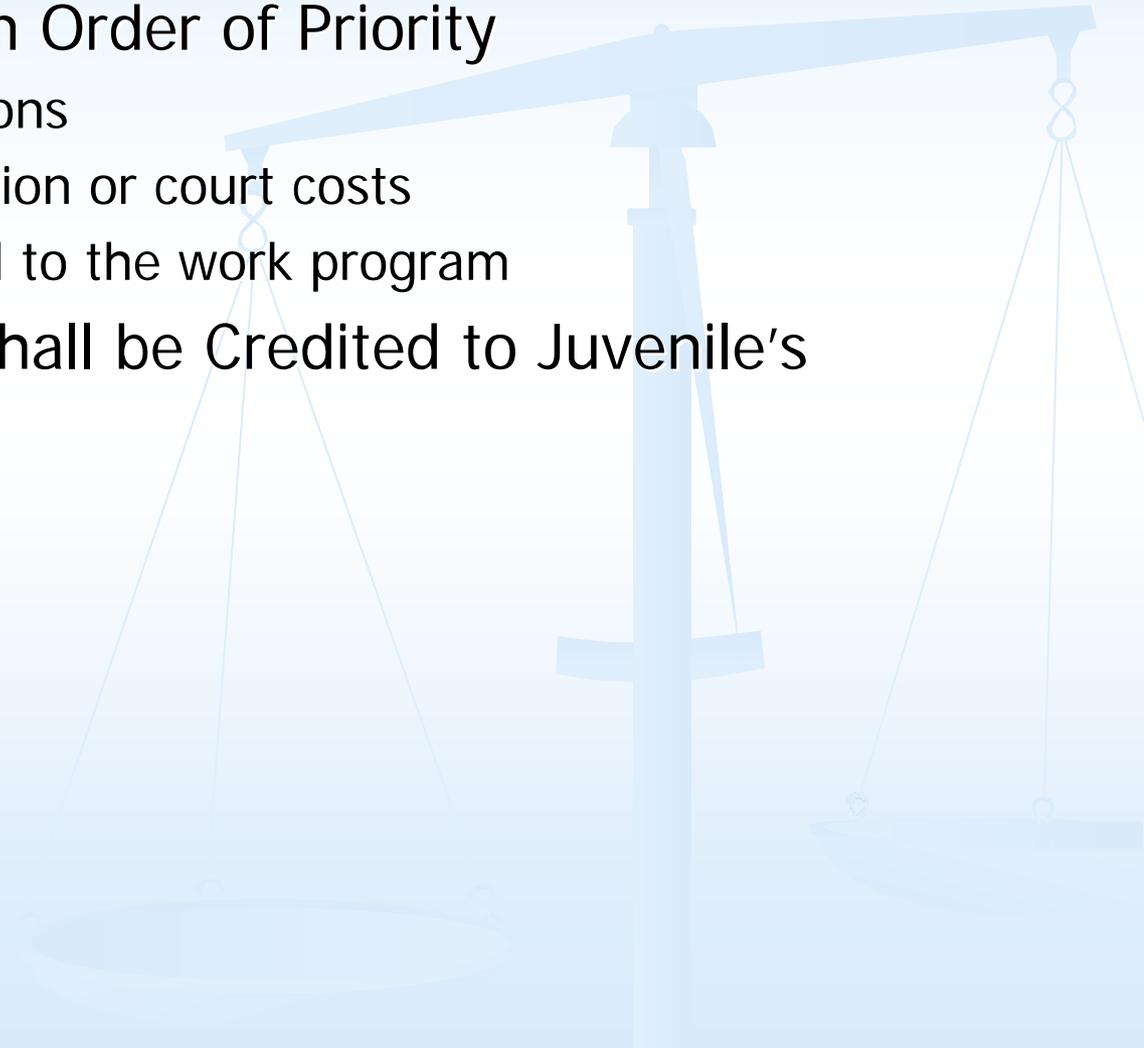
- (Central Classification & Review Committee)

■ Job Search/Interviews/Hiring Process

■ Moved into separate Work Release Residence

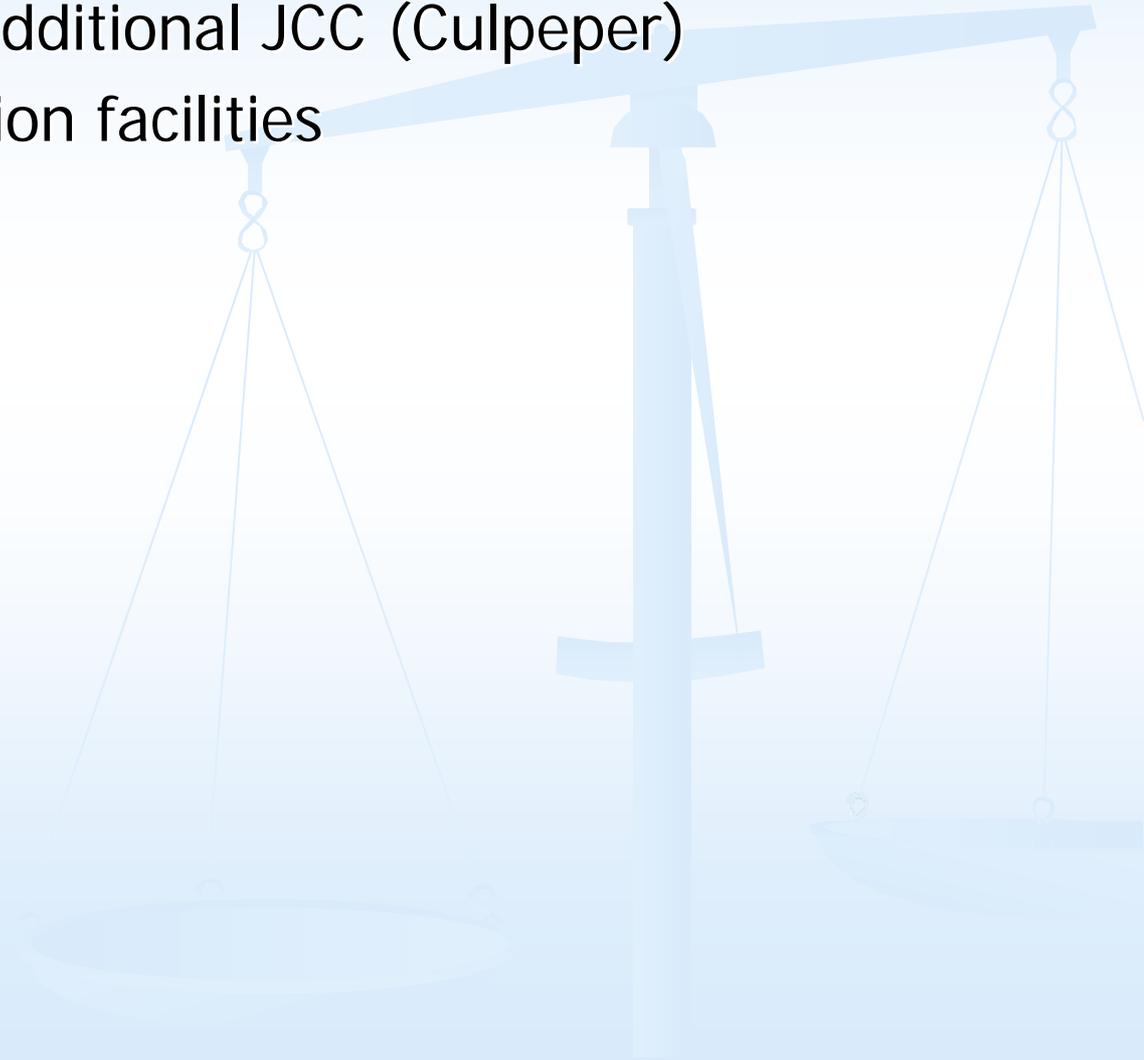
Compensation for Employment in Private Sector: Va. Code § 66-25.1:3 (C)

- Wages go to DJJ for Distribution
- Debts Shall be Paid in Order of Priority
 - Meet support obligations
 - Pay any fines, restitution or court costs
 - Pay travel etc. related to the work program
- Remaining Balance Shall be Credited to Juvenile's Account



Potential Future Growth

- Expand current program at Natural Bridge JCC
- Expand program to additional JCC (Culpeper)
- Through local detention facilities



Potential Benefits of Work Release

- Actual work experience
- Responsibility
- Interview experience
- Earnings
- Sense of accomplishment

