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LIDS TECH TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The Compensation Board requires all LIDS Technicians attend a Compensation Board LIDS training not less than every 24 months, to include but not limited to, the annual LIDS Conference. In light of the absence of a 2008 or 2009 LIDS Conference due to budget restrictions, the Compensation Board has made a temporary adjustment in the training requirements of LIDS Technicians. Any LIDS Technician who attended the 2007 LIDS Conference, or any LIDS training in 2007, and has had at least a satisfactory audit rating in the last two years will be exempt from the training requirement this year. Although any technicians fitting the above criteria are not *required* to attend training this year, please do not hesitate to register for training if it is needed.

In addition, any LIDS Technician whose jail receives less than a satisfactory audit in this or future years will be required to attend Audit Prep Training.

2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The following are items from the 2009 General Assembly impacting the offices of Sheriffs and Regional Jails.

- ◆ HB2065 was approved by both the House and the Senate and signed by the Governor in February. This bill requires localities participating in the Virginia Retirement System and participating in a regional jail to provide retirement benefits comparable to the benefits provided to state police officers, and recently provided to all Sheriffs' deputies, to sworn officers in regional jails, regardless of whether or not they are funded by the Compensation Board. The regional jail superintendent will receive the same benefits provided to Sheriffs.

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- ◆ Funding of \$5.3 million was restored from reductions initially included in the Budget Bill as introduced.
- ◆ Additional language included in Items 395 and 475.50 specifies that the distribution of \$23.3 million from Virginia's allocation from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program is to restore remaining reductions for Sheriffs' offices and local and regional jails operating budgets (to the extent such funds are made available as part of the federal economic stimulus legislation); this restores approximately 99% of budget reductions initially included in the Budget Bill;
- ◆ Funding has been approved for staffing costs for FY10 jail openings as follows:
 - ◆ Phase 2 of the opening of the Rappahannock Regional Jail expansion is funded to open in the summer of 2009;
 - ◆ Phase 2 of the opening of the Riverside Regional Jail expansion is funded to open in September 2009;
 - ◆ The first phase of an expansion of the Blue Ridge Regional Jail is funded to open in November 2009;
 - ◆ A Loudoun County jail expansion is funded to open in mid-November 2009;
 - ◆ An expansion to the New River Valley Regional Jail is funded to open in December 2009.
- ◆ The fee that may be charged an inmate by a jail to defray the costs associated with the inmate's keep has increased from \$1 per day to \$3 per day.
- ◆ Language was approved by the legislature directing the review of potential alternatives to incarceration for non-violent, low-risk offenders. Additional language was approved for the review of the Commonwealth's long-term obligations regarding financing of local and regional jails, to include both construction and ongoing operations. A subcommittee has been formed to review both of these items and will begin to meet in late May.

UPDATES & REMINDERS

The 2009 Mental Health Survey will be posted on the Compensation Board website in July, collecting data on inmates in your facilities during the month of June. A read-only copy of the revised survey will be available on the Compensation Board website no later than May 22nd.

LIDS Certification & Approval is due on 5/13/2009

Helpful Hints

Did you know that VCC's may be copied and pasted from the Compensation Board website into LIDS? To do so, highlight the VCC you need on the webpage, hold the 'Ctrl' key and press 'C' to copy the code. In LIDS, place your cursor at the beginning of the blank for Offense Code, hold the 'Ctrl' key and press 'V' to paste the VCC into LIDS. This procedure may be used to copy and paste not only VCC's but any code that LIDS requires.