

# Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission



## **Study Topic Selection**

Commission Briefing

October 13, 2009



# Background

- Commission is authorized to select functional areas of study and to designate specific study topics
- Commission last set out list of study topics in 2000
- Topic selection is part of long-range planning process
  - Selected topics to be completed as staff are available for assignment, over multiple years
  - Commission to approve scope of projects as part of the annual workplan

# Proposed Study Topics

- Economic Potential of Virginia's Seafood Industry
- Budget Impact on Institutional and Community Corrections
- Organization of Virginia's System of Courts
- Food Safety and Security (VDACS and VDH)
- Cost Efficiencies at State Colleges and Universities

## Proposed Study Topics (continued)

- Department of State Police
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
- Department of Rail and Public Transportation
- Organization and Administration of State-Supported Museums

# Discussion of Proposed Study Topics

- Questions about proposed topics
- Member proposals for study topics



# Topic: Economic Potential of Virginia's Seafood Industry

- Functional area: Commerce and Resources
- Last JLARC study: January 1983
- Background:
  - Virginia economic impact of 500 million in 2008
  - Fourth largest producer of marine products in U.S.
  - 11,000 full- and part-time jobs

# Topic: Economic Potential of Virginia's Seafood Industry

## ■ Study issues:

- Impact on the industry of the current economy
- Importation of foreign seafood
- Use of migrant workers (H2B program)
- Redefining the boundaries of public oyster grounds
- Creation of aquaculture zones
- Promotion of aquaculture hatcheries
- Promotion of Virginia seafood and marine products

# Topic: Budget Impacts on Institutional and Community Corrections

- Functional area: Administration of Justice
- Last JLARC study: December 2008 (Budget Review)
- Background:
  - \$1 billion DOC annual budget
  - 12,939 authorized positions
  - 32,000 inmates in DOC facilities
  - 60,000 persons under community supervision

# Topic: Budget Impacts on Institutional and Community Corrections

## ■ Study issues:

- Impact on institutional supervision and overcrowding
- Impact on local and regional jails
- Impact on parole supervision
- Impact on institutional treatment programs
- Impact on community treatment programs

# Topic: Organization of Virginia's System of Courts

- Functional area: Administration of Justice
- Last JLARC study: None
- Background:
  - 120 circuit courts
  - 201 district courts (general, juvenile & domestic relations, combined)
  - Total cost of \$596 million annually, funded by State and localities

# Topic: Organization of Virginia's System of Courts

## ■ Study issues:

- Funding, organization, and responsibilities of circuit court clerks
- Procedures for collection of court fees
- Staffing for circuit and district courts
- Implementation of reforms in the magistrate system
- Status of automating court processes and procedures
- Adequacy of court security

# Topic: Food Safety and Security

- Functional area: Commerce and Resources, Individual and Family Services
- Last JLARC study: None
- Background:
  - Regulated by Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (producer, retail) and Department of Health (restaurants, shellfish)
  - Regulation and enforcement cost \$44.3 million in 2008
  - More than 40,000 regulated establishments (food processing, food retailers, restaurants, etc.)

# Topic: Food Safety and Security

## ■ Study issues:

- Timeliness and thoroughness of inspection and reporting programs
- Enforcement activities
- Use of best practices
- Coordination with federal agencies

# Topic: Cost Efficiency at State Colleges and Universities

## ■ Functional area: Education

## ■ Recent JLARC studies:

- Two-Year Review of Initial Higher Education Management Agreements (2008)
- Tenure and Post-Tenure Review Policies at Virginia's Public Colleges and Universities (2004)
- Special Report: Higher Education (2002)

## ■ Background (2008):

- 17 institutions
- 2,154 degree and award programs
- 64,132 degrees and awards
- 383,462 students
- \$7.4 billion FY 2009 total appropriations (1.7 billion GF)

# Topic: Cost Efficiency at State Colleges and Universities

## ■ Study issues:

- Duplication of degree programs
- Productivity of degree programs
- Average class sizes
- Faculty workloads
- Online courses and distance learning
- Remedial courses
- Utilization of classrooms and laboratories
- Consolidation of administrative functions
- Outsourcing non-academic services

# Topic: Department of State Police

- Functional area: Administration of Justice
- Recent JLARC studies: None
- Background (2008):
  - 7 regional divisions
  - Criminal investigations, field operations, support services
  - 2,805 authorized positions
  - \$295.7 million total appropriations
  - \$218.5 million GF appropriations

# Topic: Department of State Police

## ■ Study issues:

- Field office alignment
- Coordination with local police departments, sheriffs, and federal law enforcement agencies
- Staffing levels
- Equipment, facilities, training programs
- Effectiveness of
  - Statewide communication system (STARS)
  - Firearms background check program (VCHECK)
  - Virginia Criminal Intelligence Center

# Topic: Department of Motor Vehicles

- Functional area: Transportation
- Last JLARC study: None
- Background (2008):
  - Collected \$2.2 billion in transportation revenues
  - Operating budget of \$214 million
  - 74 customer service centers, 13 weigh stations
  - 1,842 full time employees
  - 12 million driver and vehicle transactions annually
  - 17 million trucks weighed

# Topic: Department of Motor Vehicles

## ■ Study issues:

- DMV operations
  - Staffing, facilities, equipment, processes
  - Field operations
  - Administration and finance
- REAL ID implementation and driver's license processing
- Driver's education certification and regulation
- Commercial services (insurance, dealers, motor carriers, towing, salvage, vehicle weight enforcement)
- Highway safety programs

# Topic: Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

- Functional area: Enterprises
- Last JLARC study: None
- Background (2008):
  - \$641.2 million gross annual sales
  - \$307.5 million total revenues
  - \$8.5 million in profits/taxes to localities
  - 1,048 authorized positions
  - 332 stores
  - 16,181 licenses to Virginia establishments

# Topic: Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

## ■ Study issues:

- Retail organization and operations
  - Staffing, equipment, facilities
  - Use of technology for operations
- Law enforcement organization and operations
  - Licensing and enforcement
- Organization and administration of the agency

# Topic: Department of Rail and Public Transportation

- Functional area: Transportation
- Last JLARC study: None
- Background:
  - Finances rail, public transit, and commuter assistance projects and programs
  - \$460 million annual budget (2010)
  - \$5 million annual agency operating budget
  - 53 authorized positions
  - Funded from Transportation Trust Fund, bond proceeds, federal funds, other sources

# Topic: Department of Rail and Public Transportation

## ■ Study issues:

- Use of public transit in Virginia
- Adequacy of long-range planning
- Impact of current funding on projects and programs
- Use of federal stimulus funding
- Agency organization and administration

# Topic: Organization and Administration of State Museums

- Functional area: Education
- Recent JLARC studies: None
- Background (2008)
  - 5 State museums
    - Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
    - Science Museum of Virginia
    - Virginia Museum of Natural History
    - Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia
    - Gunston Hall
  - 376.5 authorized positions
  - \$36.6 million FY 09 total expenditures (\$19 m GF)

# Topic: Organization and Administration of State Museums

- Study issues:
  - Consolidation of administrative functions
  - Staffing levels relative to programs and use by the public
  - Utilization of education programs
  - Collaborative fundraising efforts
  - Collaborative volunteer efforts
  - Visitor fees and hours of operation