State Board of Local and Regional Jails
Calendar Year 2024
Annual Report on Audits and Inspections

December 1, 2025

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PURPOSE

The State Board of Local and Regional Jails (BLRJ) is statutorily obligated to annually report to the General Assembly and the Governor on the results of jail audits and inspections.

Code of Virginia §53.1-5. Powers and duties of the Board (8.)

To report annually on or before December 1 to the General Assembly and the Governor on the results of the inspections and audits of local, regional, or community correctional facilities conducted pursuant to § 53.1-68. The report shall include (i) a summary of the results of such inspections and audits, including any trends identified by such inspections and audits and the frequency of violations of each standard established for local, regional, or community correctional facilities, and (ii) any recommendations for changes to the standards established for local, regional, or community correctional facilities to improve the operations, safety, and security of local, regional, or community correctional facilities.

BOARD ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The BLRJ is established in Article 2 (§53.1-2 et seq.) Code of Virginia and is comprised of eleven gubernatorial appointees and is authorized to:

- Establish operational and fiscal standards governing the operation of local and regional correctional facilities.
- Establish minimum standards for medical and behavioral health care services in local, regional, and community correctional facilities and procedures for enforcing such minimum standards.
- Develop and implement policies and procedures for the review of the death of any inmate that the Board determines warrants review that occurs in any local, regional, or community correctional facility.
- Establish minimum standards for the construction, equipment, administration, and operation of local correctional facilities and lockups.

DATA SOURCES

Sources for this report include facility records and results of annual inspections and triennial audits.

JAIL AUDITS & INSPECTIONS

BLRJ compliance staff conduct annual, in-person, life, health and safety inspections and triennial certification audits of local and regional jails, lock-ups and federal detention centers. Inspections and audits determine compliance with the minimum standards for jails and lock-ups, 6VAC15-40 of the Virginia Administrative Code (VAC). If a citation is noted, the facility is required to immediately complete corrective action. Follow-up inspections are conducted to confirm corrective action has been implemented.

BLRJ is not authorized to inspect or audit United States prisons or federal corrections institutes. In accordance with the definitions of COV §53.1-1, Caroline Detention Facility and Farmville Detention Center are being included in this report for reference. As a part of this process, these locations are reviewed for only the sanitation standards and not the full BLRJ standards outlined within 6VAC15-40.

Audit and Inspection Results

- In CY24, the BLRJ completed 28 audits, 60 inspections, at 83 local and regional jails, lock-ups and federal detention centers.

- 3 facilities were closed or temporarily closed during CY24 and therefore are not included in percentages:
    - Hampton Roads Regional Jail (closed)
    - Meherrin River Regional Jail-Boydton (temporarily closed)
    - Mount Vernon Lock-Up (temporarily closed)

- Portsmouth City Jail and Annex experienced a fire on May 25, 2024, resulting in relocating inmates to the purchased Hampton Roads Regional Jail. BLRJ conducted a site visit to Portsmouth City Jail (in the Hampton Roads Regional Jail) on May 29, 2024, and a mock audit was conducted in December 2024.

- 64 (76%) audit/inspections resulted in full compliance.

    - Hampton City Community Corrections had both an inspection and audit completed in CY24.

- 20 (24%) audits/inspections resulted in citation of a minimum standard(s), to which all corrective action plans were approved.

    - 3 follow-up inspections took place to verify corrective action for BRRJ-Amherst, Middle Peninsula Regional Jail, and Patrick County Jail.

- There were 36 total regulatory citations in CY24, and the most frequently cited regulations included:

    - 6VAC15-40-393 Universal precautions (6)
    - 6VAC15-40-400 Management of Pharmaceuticals (4).
    - 6VAC15-40-1080 Emergency Plans and Fire Drills (4).
    - 6VAC15-40-450 Suicide Prevention and Intervention Plan (3).
    - 6VAC15-40-540 Standards for Food Service Equipment and Personnel (3).
    - 6VAC15-40-1380 Fire Safety Inspection (3).

AUDITS & INSPECTIONS FINDINGS

FACILITY	TYPE	MONTH	RESULT	CORRECTIVE ACTION APPROVED
ACCOMACK COUNTY JAIL	Inspection	October	Compliant	N/A
ALBEMARLE/CHARLOTTESVILLE REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	July	540	Yes
ALEXANDRIA ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	December	Compliant	N/A
ALLEGHANY REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	June	Compliant	N/A
ARLINGTON COUNTY ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	October	545	Yes
BLACKSTONE TOWN LOCK-UP	Inspection	January	Compliant	N/A
BOTETOURT-CRAIG REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	September	393, 450, 945, 950, 1080	Yes
BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY (BRRJA) – AMHERST ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Audit	September	390, 450, 945, 950, 1080	Yes
BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY (BRRJA) – AMHERST ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Follow-up Inspection	November	Compliant	N/A
BRRJA – BEDFORD ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	November	Compliant	N/A
BRRJA – CAMPBELL ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	November	Compliant	N/A
BRRJA – HALIFAX ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Audit	September	Compliant	N/A
BRRJA – LYNCHBURG ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	November	Compliant	N/A
CARROLL COUNTY LOCK-UP	Audit	June	Compliant	N/A
CAROLINE FEDERAL DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	October	Compliant	N/A
CENTRAL VIRGINIA REGIONAL JAIL	Audit	May	Compliant	N/A
CHARLOTTE COUNTY JAIL	Inspection	June	Compliant	N/A
CHESAPEAKE CITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER	Audit	August	Compliant	N/A
CHESTERFIELD COUNTY JAIL	Inspection	January	400	Yes
CULPEPER COUNTY ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	May	400, 1080	Yes
DANVILLE CITY JAIL	Inspection	May	Compliant	N/A
DANVILLE CITY ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	May	393	Yes
DINWIDDIE COUNTY LOCK-UP	Inspection	January	Compliant	N/A
EASTERN SHORE REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	October	Compliant	N/A
ESSEX COUNTY LOCK-UP	Audit	March	Compliant	N/A
FAIRFAX COUNTY ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	December	Compliant	N/A
FARMVILLE FEDERAL DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	October	Compliant	N/A
FAUQUIER COUNTY ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	May	540	Yes
FLOYD COUNTY LOCK-UP	Inspection	October	Compliant	N/A
FLUVANNA COUNTY LOCK-UP	Inspection	April	1240, 1380	Yes
FRANKLIN COUNTY JAIL	Audit	September	Compliant	N/A

GALAX CITY LOCK-UP	Inspection	February	Compliant	N/A
GLOUCESTER COUNTY JAIL	Audit	October	Compliant	N/A
GRAYSON COUNTY LOCK-UP	Inspection	February	Compliant	N/A
GREENE COUNTY LOCK-UP	Inspection	July	Compliant	N/A
HAMPTON CITY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS	Inspection	January	Compliant	N/A
HAMPTON CITY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS	Audit	November	Compliant	N/A
HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL JAIL	Closed			
HENRICO COUNTY REGIONAL JAIL EAST	Audit	November	Compliant	N/A
HENRICO COUNTY REGIONAL JAIL WEST	Audit	November	Compliant	N/A
HENRY COUNTY ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	September	Compliant	N/A
HIGHLAND COUNTY LOCK-UP	Inspection	June	1380	Yes
LANCASTER COUNTY JAIL	Inspection	July	400	Yes
LOUDOUN COUNTY ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	July	Compliant	N/A
LOUISA COUNTY LOCK-UP	Inspection	July	Compliant	N/A
MADISON COUNTY LOCK-UP	Audit	October	Compliant	N/A
MARTINSVILLE CITY & ANNEX	Audit	August	Compliant	N/A
MEHERRIN RIVER REGIONAL JAIL - ALBERTA	Inspection	June	Compliant	N/A
MEHERRIN RIVER REGIONAL JAIL – BOYDTON	Temporarily Closed			
MIDDLE PENINSULA REGIONAL JAIL	Audit	March	980	Yes
MIDDLE PENINSULA REGIONAL JAIL	Follow-up Inspection	July	Compliant	N/A
MIDDLE RIVER REGIONAL. JAIL	Inspection	September	Compliant	N/A
MONTGOMERY COUNTY JAIL	Inspection	October	Compliant	N/A
MOUNT VERNON LOCK-UP	Temporarily Closed			
NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL JAIL	Audit	April	Compliant	N/A
NEWPORT NEWS CITY JAIL & ANNEX	Audit	July	Compliant	N/A
NORFOLK CITY JAIL	Inspection	October	Compliant	N/A
NORTHWESTERN REGIONAL ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Audit	July	Compliant	N/A
NORTHERN NECK REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	March	Compliant	N/A
PAGE COUNTY JAIL	Inspection	July	Compliant	N/A
PAMUNKEY REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	March	Compliant	N/A
PATRICK COUNTY JAIL	Audit	February	400	Yes
PATRICK COUNTY JAIL	Follow-up Inspection	May	545, 1030	Yes
PIEDMONT REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	October	393, 450, 1080	Yes
PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY JAIL	Audit	October	Compliant	N/A
PORTSMOUTH CITY JAIL & ANNEX	Site Visit – May 2024 Mock Audit – December 2024			
PRINCE WILLIAM/MANASSAS REGIONAL ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	October	395	Yes
RAPPAHANNOCK REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	March	545	Yes
RICHMOND CITY JUSTICE CENTER	Audit	February	Compliant	N/A
RIVERSIDE REGIONAL JAIL	Audit	February	Compliant	N/A
ROANOKE CITY ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Audit	August	Compliant	N/A

ROANOKE COUNTY-SALEM JAIL	Audit	October	Compliant	N/A
ROCKBRIDGE REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	June	393, 450, 1080	Yes
ROCKINGHAM/HARRISONBURG REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	July	Compliant	N/A
RSW REGIONAL JAIL (Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Warren Counties)	Inspection	September	Compliant	N/A
SMITHFIELD LOCK-UP	Inspection	July	Compliant	N/A
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY & ANNEX	Inspection	July	Compliant	N/A
SOUTHSIDE REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	April	Compliant	N/A
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY (SWVRJA)-ABINGDON ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Audit	March	Compliant	N/A
SWVRJA-DUFFIELD ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Audit	February	Compliant	N/A
SWVRJA-HAYSI ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Audit	April	Compliant	N/A
SWVRJA-TAZEWELL ADULT DETENTION CENTER	Inspection	June	Compliant	N/A
SURRY COUNTY LOCK-UP	Inspection	May	Compliant	N/A
SUSSEX COUNTY JAIL	Inspection	October	Compliant	N/A
VIRGINIA BEACH CORRECTIONAL CENTER	Inspection	October	Compliant	N/A
VIRGINIA BEACH LOCK-UP #2	Inspection	October	Compliant	N/A
VIRGINIA BEACH LOCK-UP #3	Inspection	October	1380	Yes
VIRGINIA PENINSULA REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	April	540	Yes
WESTERN TIDEWATER REGIONAL JAIL	Inspection	May	393	Yes
WESTERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL JAIL	Audit	September	Compliant	N/A
WYTHE COUNTY LOCK-UP	Audit	June	Compliant	N/A

CY24 audit and inspections citations are listed below and the entire Minimum Standards for Jails and Lock-ups may be found at https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title6/agency15/chapter40/.

CY24 6VAC15-40 Citations

390 Training and competency of staff (1)
393 Universal precautions (6)
395 Management of sharps (1)
400 Management of pharmaceuticals (4)
405 Automatic external defibrillator (1)
440 Medical care provided by personnel other than physician (1)
450 Suicide prevention and intervention plan (3)
540 Standards for food service equipment and personnel (3)
545 Standards for inmate food service workers (3)
945 Tools (1)
950 Flammable, toxic and caustic materials (1)
980 Restraint equipment (1)
1030 Assessment of inmates in disciplinary detention or administrative segregation (1)
1040 Staff training (1)
1080 Emergency plans and fire drills (4)
1240 Inspection requirements (1)
1380 Fire safety inspections (3)

ACTIONS TAKEN BY FACILITIES

When citations are documented during inspections and audits facilities are required to promptly implement corrective action. BLRJ compliance staff verifies all corrective action implementation, effectiveness, and completion. Examples of corrective action opportunities available for jails to address documented citations include:

- Reviewing emergency medical policies for the facility and medical provider to enhance the continuity of care;
- Additional training for staff, e.g., formal re-training of staff regarding supervision of inmates;
- Accountability of staff and administration, e.g., deputies/officers/medical staff were terminated for violating policy and procedures;
- Highlighting the importance of following the facilities policy and procedures during supervisory/officer meetings;
- Adding automated systems to track officers/deputies' security rounds;
- Enhancing medical care, e.g., additional medical staff;
- Changing health care contracted providers;
- Continuous Quality Improvement Program in health care services; and
- Incorporating internal audits by supervisory and administrative staff to ensure compliance with regulations;
- Ensuring Virginia Department of Health and Fire Marshal inspections are properly scheduled.

SERIOUS INCIDENT REPORTS

Pursuant to 6VAC15-40-110, and 6VAC15-40-1350, jails and lock-ups report serious incidents to BLRJ. The BLRJ received 51 Serious Incident Reports in CY24, and 50 Serious Incident Reports in CY23:

- CY24 Erroneous Release – 34
- CY23 Erroneous Release – 34

- CY24 Accidental Firearms Discharge – 2
- CY23 Accidental Firearms Discharge – 0

- CY24 Escapes – 9
- CY23 Escapes – 13

- CY24 Absconded – 5
- CY23 Absconded – 3

- CY24 Housing Unit Fire – 1
- CY23 Housing Unit Fire – 0

RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

The BLRJ is responsible for developing and establishing operational and fiscal standards governing local and regional jails. The BLRJ is also charged with offering recommendations for changes to those standards resulting from the findings of inspections, audits, and reviews.

BLRJ Staffing Resources Needed to Fulfill Existing Mandates and to Prioritize Needed Regulatory Updates:

Despite notable progress and efficiency gains since May of 2024, BLRJ team continues to operate under significant strain. A significant challenge is the ongoing lack of adequate resources necessary to meet current legislative mandates. A shortfall in support and staffing for BLRJ undermines the ability to sustain existing responsibilities, let alone implement new requirements or new initiatives. During this past General Assembly session, BLRJ was assigned five (5) additional mandates to study, report, and/or survey without notice or consultation by patrons and without regard to resource considerations.

When new mandates are introduced, or when external demands arise, such as Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, subpoenas, reports, work groups, etc., BLRJ's already limited capacity becomes overwhelmed. These events frequently immobilize the team, effectively halting the ability to perform essential day-to-day operations.

The impact of these resource constraints is not merely administrative, it threatens the continued success of compliance efforts and, by extension, public safety across the Commonwealth.

Conclusion:

The decline in citations and the increase of compliance from CY23-CY24 are significant. The 76% compliance rate and the decrease in the number of regulations cited in CY24 clearly reflect the Commonwealth's jails and lock-ups commitment to implementing the life, health and safety standards developed by the BLRJ in support of safety for inmates, staff and the public.

Peering through a larger lens, the continued disconnect between public perception, actual function, and scope of Virginia's jails and regulatory board exacerbates systematic confusion and misunderstanding. Until there are meaningful investments in BLRJ resources, every new obligation further compromises BLRJ's ability to support public safety.