

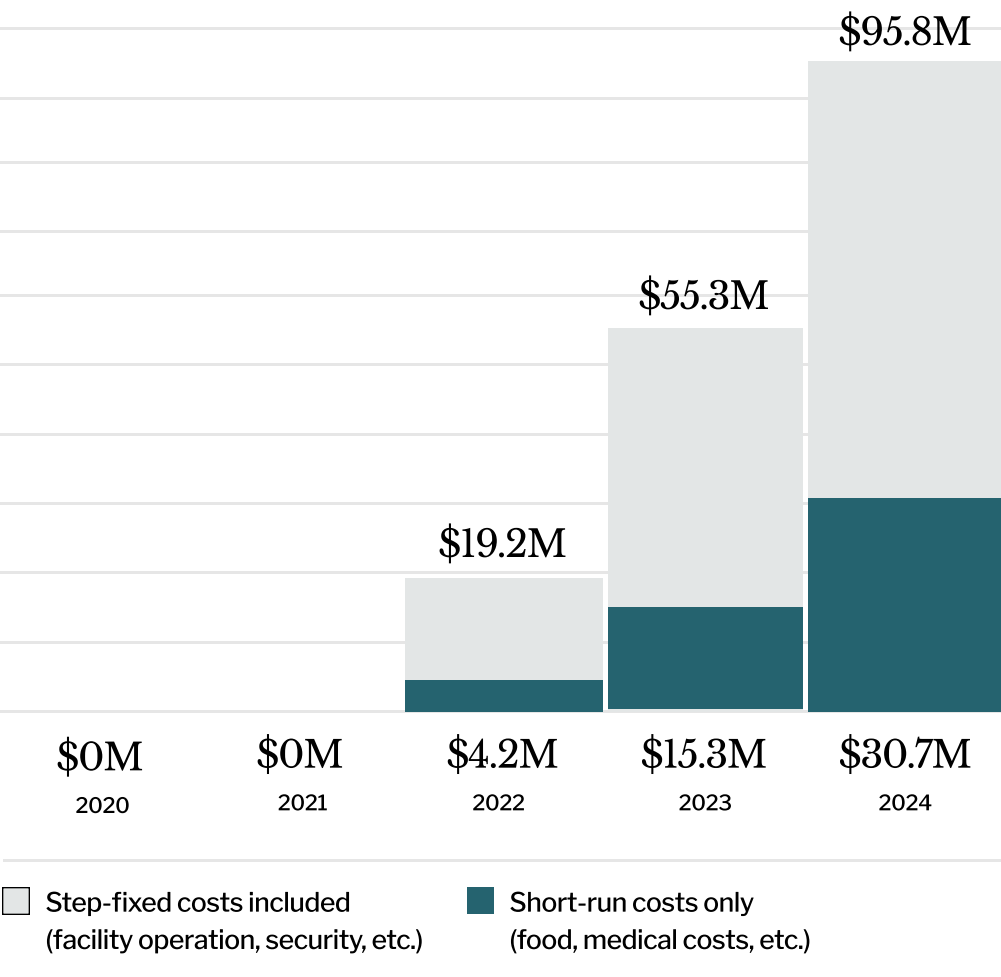
Expanded Earned Sentence Credits in Prison

Virginia / August 17, 2020

5-year impact in Virginia

By expanding the current earned sentence credit system, Virginia is projected to save at least \$30 million in marginal costs and incarcerate 2,385 fewer people over 5 years. In doing so, it would join at least 31 states that have a system in place to award earned time incentives to people who complete programs.

Cumulative cost avoidance (marginal cost)



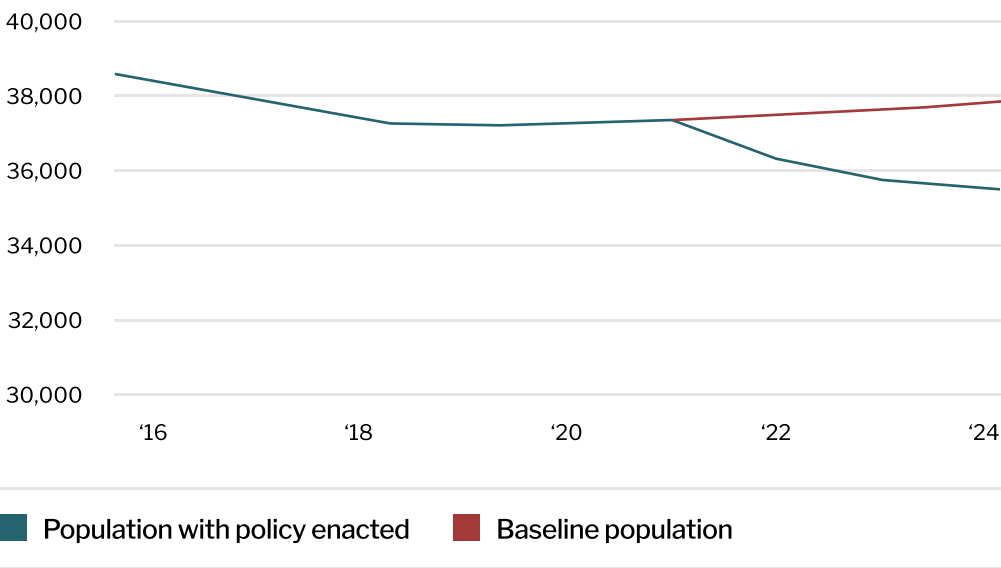
Projected population impact

2,385

Fewer people in prison

5,406

Life years back



The opportunity

Despite a steady decline in crime and one of the lowest violent crime rates, Virginia incarcerates at an 11% higher rate than the national average. The number of people in prison grew by 6% from 2000 to 2018, driven in part by 1995's Truth in Sentencing program. 75% of Virginians claim that the Commonwealth's prison system costs too much, and it traditionally operates at over 96% capacity.

\$1.3B

Annual VA corrections budget (2019)

3%

Proportion of VA total expenditure on corrections

Impact in other states

Kentucky

Kentucky permits "good time credits," which can reduce sentence length by up to 72%. It saved the state more than \$1.8 million in 2015 and \$2 million in 2016 while reducing prison crowding and recidivism.

New York

From 1997 through 2006, 24,000 people received six-month reductions in their minimum term, resulting in savings of \$369 million, all while reducing recidivism from 39% to 31% for the earned-time releases.

Washington

The state expanded its good time from 33% to 50% in 2003 and found a net benefit of \$7,179 per person from an average 63-day reduction in length of stay as well as in avoided costs of crime from a 3.5% reduction in recidivism.

The projection assumes the sentence lengths of the eligible population is reduced proportionally to their sentence length, assuming full participation in relevant programs and a distribution of earned sentence credits level corresponding to the distribution of VA DOC's custody level - 'minimum' and 'other' earns level 1 credits (24%), 'moderate' and 'medium' earns level 2 credits (59%), 'close' earns level 3 credits (11%), 'maximum' and 'restrictive housing' earns level 4 credits (6%).