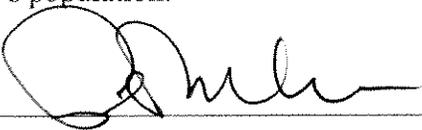


Report on the Response of the Department of Forensic Science to the Impact of the Aging of Virginia's Population

June 2, 2008

Pursuant to legislation enacted by the Virginia General Assembly of Virginia, the Department of Forensic Science submits this report of its progress in addressing the impact of the aging of Virginia's population.

Signed:  _____ Peter M. Marone, Director

Date: 6/5/08

Executive Summary

The intent of this report is to address how the Department of Forensic Science addresses **HB 110** and **HB 854**, in part. Specifically, it is to summarize how the Agency addresses aging consumers, those age 65 and over, throughout the Commonwealth.

As indicated in the *Agency Description* on page 4, the purpose of the Agency is to provide services to law enforcement agencies and medical examiners. Those two groups are our sole consumers. The Agency does not deal with or interact with end-user consumers in the traditional sense. That is, the Agency does not provide direct services to citizens of the Commonwealth, as citizens are not authorized to gather, handle, and deliver crime scene evidence. On the other hand, the Agency does provide services indirectly to all citizens of the Commonwealth in that, when crime scene evidence is delivered to one of the Agency's laboratories, the Agency analyzes that evidence in order to help solve crimes. These crimes can and do affect all citizens.

Agency Description

The Department of Forensic Science provides scientific analysis of evidential material for all law enforcement agencies, Commonwealth's Attorneys, medical examiners and other agencies in the Commonwealth as prescribed by law; provides expert testimony at trial; maintains a DNA Data Bank; trains law enforcement personnel on forensic related subjects; provides photographic processing services to law enforcement agencies.

Data Requested

1. Number of persons who received services from the agency in the past year:

- 65-74 (see responses below)
- 75-84 (see responses below)
- 85 and older (see responses below)

2. Agency services that are utilized by senior citizens 65 and older:

The services of the agency are used primarily by law enforcement agencies. Assuming crimes are committed by people of all ages, the agency indirectly provides services that affect criminals who are senior citizens as well as criminals of other ages.

3. Current agency programs specifically designed to serve seniors 65 and older:

- Health Care/Wellness
- Education
- Public Safety
- Recreation
- Financial Security (including Housing)
- Transportation

It isn't within the mission and scope of the agency to provide these types of services. See the response to #2, above, and the *Agency Description* page.

4. Consumer-oriented publications and websites designed to be senior-friendly:

The agency has a website that we feel is friendly to users of all ages. The Agency does not serve consumers as traditionally defined. We do not produce publications.

5. Effect of the aging of the agency's workforce on its ability to deliver services:

The aging of the Agency's workforce has had no effect on its ability to deliver services to the law enforcement community.

The number and type of employees employed by the Agency is based on the number of crime cases needing the Agency's involvement. The level of employment has to be maintained at a level that will properly serve the law enforcement community. As existing employees age and retire, they are replaced with other qualified employees.

The employees in the two most senior level positions, Agency Director and Deputy Director, are eligible for retirement, as is the Director of Administration and Finance. Typically, when employees at this level are replaced it is through a competitive process that is open to the public.

The following indicates the number and percentage of staff in scientific positions currently eligible for retirement, based on attainment of age 55:

Laboratory Director – One of four is eligible to retire (25%)

Section Chief – Three of nine are eligible to retire (33%)

Section Supervisors – 5 of 21 are eligible to retire (24%)

Group Supervisors – 0 of 18 are eligible to retire (0%)

Forensic Scientists – 19 of 117 are eligible to retire (16%)

As retirements in these groups occur, the retiring employees will be replaced using a competitive process. The most qualified of the interested candidates will be selected to fill the positions. The competitive process used may be limited to Agency employees or open to the public, dependent on the specific position.