

Unified Regulatory Plan of the Department/Board of Juvenile Justice for State Fiscal Year 2026

Prepared on June 27, 2025

Description of Agency or Boards

The Department of Juvenile Justice (the department) provides services to juveniles and families by operating 30 court service units (CSUs) and one juvenile correctional center (JCC). The department also oversees locally operated CSUs, juvenile detention centers, community placement programs, group homes, shelter care facilities, and independent living programs. The Board of Juvenile Justice (board) is the policy-making body responsible for promulgating the regulations necessary for the department to carry out the provisions of Title 66 and other laws of the Commonwealth and to achieve its mission to protect the public by preparing court-involved and committed youth to be successful citizens. The department operates under the supervision of the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Action 4608/Stage 9889	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Periodic Review of Regulation Governing Juvenile Correctional Centers (6VAC35-71)	
Brief Overview This regulatory action seeks to amend the Regulation Governing Juvenile Correctional Centers (6VAC35-71) promulgated by the board, which provides the minimum standards for juvenile correctional center staff. The proposed amendments will help the department ensure proper safeguards are in place when room confinement is imposed and control and limit staff use of mechanical restraints, the mechanical restraint chair, and protective devices.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☒ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute ☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	This regulatory action will remove all requirements currently contained in Part X of the regulation related to juvenile boot camp programs. The department plans to remove the compliance manual as a document incorporated by reference so that it exists as a standalone document no longer deemed a part of the regulation. In addition, several provisions that improperly incorporate departmental procedures into the regulation are being removed. Because juvenile correctional centers are operated by the department, these changes will not count towards regulatory reduction.
Expected Date	June 30, 2026 (Executive Branch review at the Final Stage began on December 20, 2022.)

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Action 4617/Stage 9297		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Periodic Review of Regulation Governing Juvenile Secure Detention Centers (6VAC35-101)		
Brief Overview This action includes comprehensive amendments to the Regulation Governing Juvenile Secure Detention Centers (6VAC35-101), promulgated by the board. The purpose of this action is to continue to enhance programming and ensure safety and security within these facilities. Among the most noteworthy changes, the regulation imposes numerous restrictions on juvenile detention center staff use of mechanical restraints, the mechanical restraint chair, and spit guards, as well as room restriction and disciplinary room restriction.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☒ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	Several provisions will be streamlined, and guidance documents improperly incorporated by reference have been removed.	
Expected Date	June 30, 2026 (Executive Branch Review for the Final stage began on December 20, 2022)	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not Available		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Periodic Review of Regulation for Nonresidential Services (6VAC35-150)		
Brief Overview This regulatory action is intended to initiate a comprehensive overhaul of the Regulation for Nonresidential Services set forth in 6VAC35-150 and promulgated by the board. The current regulation establishes minimum standards for the operation of state-operated and locally operated court service units and for nonresidential programs available to the juvenile and domestic relations district court.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☒ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	The department is working to finalize recommendations for reducing the regulatory requirements and anticipates removing several provisions that are operational or improperly incorporate departmental procedures into the regulation.	
Expected Date	October 1, 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)	
Not available	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document	
Action to Amend Compliance Manual for the Regulation for Nonresidential Services (6VAC35-150)	
Brief Overview	
This action seeks to amend the Compliance Manual for the Regulation for Nonresidential Services (6VAC35-150). The document governs all certification audits of state-operated and locally operated court service units and other entities providing nonresidential services and subject to the board's regulations. Proposed amendments will provide interpretive guidance to staff in such facilities and in the department's Certification Unit.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute ☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	The action will make preliminary modifications to shorten the document by removing unnecessary purpose statements, extraneous language, and outdated references to incorporated procedures for the sole purpose of reducing the length and word count of the document. Additional changes to align the manual with proposed regulatory changes will be proposed at a later date to coincide with the effective date of the regulatory amendments.
Expected Date	October 1, 2025

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)	
Not available	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document	
Action to Reduce Requirements for Regulation Governing Juvenile Record Information and the Virginia Juvenile Justice Information System (6VAC35-160)	
Brief Overview	
This regulatory action seeks to accomplish a portion of the Governor's 25% regulatory reduction and to make additional changes to the Regulation Governing Juvenile Record Information and the Virginia Juvenile Justice information System (6VAC35-160), promulgated by the board. The proposed changes also will clarify existing language and account for changes in agency and industry practices.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☒ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute ☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	The department is working to finalize its reduction plan and anticipates removing certain documents incorporated by reference, ensuring that the proper versions of remaining incorporated documents are referenced, and removing operational provisions more appropriate for agency procedures.

Expected Date	October 1, 2025
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Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Action 6678/Stage not available		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Action to Amend the Regulation Governing the Monitoring, Approval, and Certification of Juvenile Justice Programs and Facilities (6VAC35-20)		
Brief Overview This action seeks to amend the Regulation Governing the Monitoring, Approval, and Certification of Juvenile Justice Programs and Facilities, in accordance with the most recent Periodic Review Report. The language in the regulation will be amended for clarity and precision, and two existing sections will be repealed. This regulation is promulgated by the board.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☒ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	This action will result in modest reductions by rescinding language that is procedural in nature and by reducing one section that currently goes much further than the associated Code of Virginia requirements.	
Expected Date	November 1, 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Action 5617/Stage 9890		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Establish new regulations applicable to programs detaining youth pursuant to federal contracts (6VAC35-200)		
Brief Overview This action seeks to establish a new set of regulatory provisions (Regulations Governing the Housing of Youth Pursuant to Contracts with the Federal Government, 6VAC35-200), promulgated by the board that will apply to programs for youth detained in juvenile correctional facilities pursuant to contracts with federal governmental entities. The action is the product of a legislative mandate enacted during the 2020 Virginia General Assembly Session (Chapter 599 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly, codified as Code of Virginia § 66-10.2) that directs the board, in collaboration with DBHDS, to promulgate regulations governing the housing of youth who are detained in a juvenile correctional facility pursuant to a contract with the federal government and not committed to such juvenile correctional facility by a court of the Commonwealth.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☒ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document

Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Discretionary action ☒ Action required by state statute
Deregulatory Component	While this action will result in a net increase in regulatory requirements, the department is making every effort to ensure this chapter is aligned with the existing chapters concerning juvenile detention centers (JDCs) and juvenile correctional centers (JCCs) in order to minimize the impact. Also worth noting, this chapter only applies to those facilities choosing to enter into a contract with the federal government. As of the submission date of this report, this includes only one of the state's 24 JDCs; the state's single JCC currently does not participate in any of the federal arrangements covered by this Code section.
Expected Date	June 30, 2026 (This action was submitted for Executive Branch review at the Proposed stage on December 20, 2022.)

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)	
Action 4638/Stage 9996	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document	
Periodic Review of Regulation Governing Juvenile Group Homes and Halfway Houses (6VAC35-41)	
Brief Overview	
This regulatory action seeks to amend the Regulation Governing Juvenile Group Homes and Halfway Houses (6VAC35-41) promulgated by the board. The action proposes comprehensive amendments to ensure the safety and rehabilitation of juveniles residing in group home facilities. Proposed changes include, among others, requirements for periodic room checks, a decrease in the mandated training hours for certain staff, and new information-sharing requirements during resident transportation.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Revised Proposed ☒ Final ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Guidance Document ☐ Exempt Action
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Discretionary action ☐ Action required by state statute
Deregulatory Component	The changes proposed for this chapter include removing the compliance manual incorporated by reference into the regulation so that the manual becomes a standalone resource. The department also proposes to remove requirements regarding programs no longer in operation and various provisions regarding resident searches.
Expected Date	June 30, 2026 (Executive Branch review at the Final Stage began on April 28, 2023.)

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)	
Action 5468/Stage 10075	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document	
Amend Regulations Governing Mental Health Services Transition Plans for Incarcerated Juveniles (6VAC35-180)	

Brief Overview		
The Regulation Governing Mental Health Service Transition Plans for Incarcerated Juveniles promulgated by the board establishes a process for ensuring the provision of post-release services for juveniles committed to the department or detained in a postdispositional program who have been identified as having a recognized mental health, substance abuse, or other therapeutic treatment need. The department has not amended this regulation since it took effect in 2008. This action seeks to conduct a comprehensive review and amendment of the existing chapter to ensure that the regulation: (i) establishes requirements that are feasible for staff in juvenile correctional centers, court service units, and post-D programs operated by juvenile detention centers; (ii) is not broader in scope than intended by the governing statute, and (iii) includes provisions aimed at successfully transitioning youth with recognized mental health, substance abuse, or other treatment needs from these facilities back to the community.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☒ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	
Deregulatory Component	☒ Discretionary action	
	This action updates a provision requiring a sometimes time-consuming memorandum of understanding to allow the regulated entities to certify their use of family assessment and planning teams (as established pursuant to statute) in the development of mental health services transition plans for juveniles. While this change does not reduce the number of requirements, it does provide an avenue to reduce the regulatory burden on court service units and juvenile detention centers operating post-dispositional programs. Additionally, documents currently incorporated into the regulation will exist as standalone documents, further reducing discretionary requirements.	
Expected Date	June 30, 2026 (This action was submitted for Executive Branch review at the Proposed Stage on July 21, 2023.)	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
Action 5467/Stage 9317		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Amend Regulation Governing State Reimbursement of Local Juvenile Residential Facility Costs (6VAC35-30)		
Brief Overview		
This regulatory action seeks to amend the Regulation Governing State Reimbursement of Local Juvenile Residential Facility Costs set forth in 6VAC35-30 and promulgated by the board. The current regulations establish a process for localities seeking to obtain state reimbursement funding for qualifying construction projects involving juvenile detention centers and juvenile group home facilities in accordance with § 16.1-309.5 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i>. Although a moratorium on state reimbursement for such projects has been in place for several years, localities remain subject to the reimbursement process outlined in this regulation. The department initiated this action to reduce the regulatory burden on localities engaged in qualifying projects.		
Regulatory Stage	☐ NOIRA	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA

(check one box)	☐ Proposed ☒ Final	☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	The proposal seeks to remove the requirement to apply a complicated formula for determining reimbursement amounts and to make additional changes to simplify the process for localities that wish to preserve their right to seek reimbursement should the General Assembly ever reinstate funding. In addition to these changes, the proposal seeks to remove a number of provisions that improperly incorporate departmental procedures into the regulation. One document incorporated by reference (the Step-by-Step Procedures) will be shortened by removing the part that was developed by the department and retaining only the architect-developed portion. Finally, the department proposes shortening a separate document incorporated by reference (the CPSM Manual) by pointing only to the provisions JDCs must follow instead of the entire document.	
Expected Date	June 30, 2026 (This action was submitted for Executive Branch review at the Proposed stage on September 29, 2023.)	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
Action 5467/Stage 9317		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Adopt New Regulation Governing the Process for Planning, Designing, and Constructing Locally Funded Juvenile Residential Facilities (6VAC35-35)		
Brief Overview		
This regulatory action seeks to create a new chapter promulgated by the board, the Regulation Governing the Process for Planning, Designing, and Constructing Locally Funded Juvenile Residential Facilities (6VAC35-35). The action is related to the action to amend the Regulations Governing State Reimbursement of Local Juvenile Residential Facility Costs. The department initiated this regulatory action to reduce the regulatory burden on localities constructing local juvenile detention centers and juvenile group homes by allowing for an expedited departmental review process for those localities engaged in qualifying construction projects that have no intention of seeking state reimbursement in the future should funding ever become available.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☒ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	While this proposal adds a new regulatory chapter and imposes new requirements, the purpose of the action is to lessen the burden on those localities that have no intention of seeking reimbursement by allowing for an expedited departmental review. Localities subject to this chapter will need to	

	fulfill fewer regulatory requirements than under the amended reimbursement regulation chapter.
Expected Date	June 30, 2026 (This action was submitted for Executive Branch review at the Proposed stage on September 29, 2023.)

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Action 6419/Stage 10698	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Periodic Review of the Regulation Governing Juvenile Data Requests and Research Involving Human Subjects (6VAC35-170)	
Brief Overview This regulatory action seeks to accomplish the Governor's 25% regulatory reduction initiative by identifying extraneous and unnecessarily burdensome provisions that may be removed from the Regulation Governing Juvenile Data Requests and Research Involving Human Subjects (6VAC35-170), promulgated by the board. In addition, proposed amendments will clarify confusing language and more closely align provisions with industry practices.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☒ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Discretionary action ☒ Action required by state statute
Deregulatory Component	The department anticipates removing several provisions that could be addressed through other means or that impose administrative burdens on individuals submitting data requests or research proposals involving youth served by the department.
Expected Date	June 30, 2026 (Executive branch review began at the Proposed Stage on March 10, 2025.

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Action 6433/Stage 10605	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Amend Regulation Governing Juvenile Secure Detention Centers to Add Provisions Pertaining to Community Placement Programs (6VAC35-101)	
Brief Overview This action will fill a gap in the department's regulatory structure by creating rules within the Regulation Governing Juvenile Secure Detention Centers (5VAC35-101) pertaining to committed (direct care) youth who are placed in Community Placement Programs (CPPs). CPPs are highly structured residential programs operated for direct care youth in juvenile detention centers (JDCs). CPPs seek to place youth in smaller settings closer to their home communities to increase family engagement and facilitate a smoother transition after release. These programs currently are governed by agreements between the department and participating JDCs. Creating a regulatory structure around these programs will help ensure these youth receive treatment and rehabilitation services that are consistent among JDCs and are comparable to the services they would receive at the	

state's centrally located juvenile correctional center at Bon Air. These regulations will be promulgated by the board.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☒ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	The department expects this action to result in a net increase in regulatory requirements for the JDCs that choose to participate in CPPs; however, these requirements will ease the overall burden on families and provide clarity for those juvenile detention centers operating CPPs. The new rules will be consistent with current practice while prioritizing the best interests of the youth placed in these programs.	
Expected Date	June 30, 2026 (Executive Branch Review for the Proposed Stage began on December 4, 2024).	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
Not Available		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Action to Amend Compliance Manual for the Regulation Governing Juvenile Secure Detention Centers		
Brief Overview		
This action seeks to amend the Compliance Manual for the Regulation Governing Juvenile Secure Detention Centers. The document governs all compliance audits of juvenile detention centers, and proposed amendments will provide interpretive guidance to staff in JDCs and the department's Certification Unit.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	The proposed amendments will align with changes and reductions to 6VAC35-101. Additionally, proposed changes will shorten and simplify the document by removing extraneous purpose statements and unnecessary rationales, as well as repetitive language.	
Expected Date	June 30, 2026 (contingent on proposed changes to 6VAC35-101 completing the Final Stage by this date).	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
Not Available		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Action to Amend Compliance Manual for the Regulation Governing Juvenile Group Homes and Halfway Houses (6VAC35-41)		
Brief Overview		
This action seeks to amend the Compliance Manual for the Regulation Governing Juvenile Group Homes and Halfway Houses (6VAC35-41). The document governs all compliance audits of juvenile group homes funded, in part, by the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act. Proposed amendments will provide interpretive guidance to staff in such facilities and in the department's Certification Unit.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	The proposed amendments will align with changes and reductions to 6VAC35-41. Additionally, proposed changes will shorten and simplify the document by removing extraneous purpose statements and unnecessary rationales, as well as repetitive language.	
Expected Date	June 30, 2026 (contingent on proposed amendments to 6VAC35-41 completing the Final Stage).	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
Not available		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Action to Simplify Guidance Document Interpreting 6VAC35-170		
Brief Overview		
This action is intended to modify the guidance document interpreting the Regulation Governing Juvenile Data Requests and Research Proposals (6VAC35-170) to align with proposed changes to 6VAC35-170.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	The department is working to finalize recommendations that will align the document with changes to 6VAC35-170, including removing provisions that impose unnecessarily burdensome requirements on researchers and individuals making requests for juvenile data. Additionally, the proposal will shorten and	

	simplify the document by removing extraneous or duplicative provisions and striking unnecessary details of the process.
Expected Date	June 30, 2026 (contingent on proposed changes to 6VAC35-170 nearing completion of the Final Stage by this date).