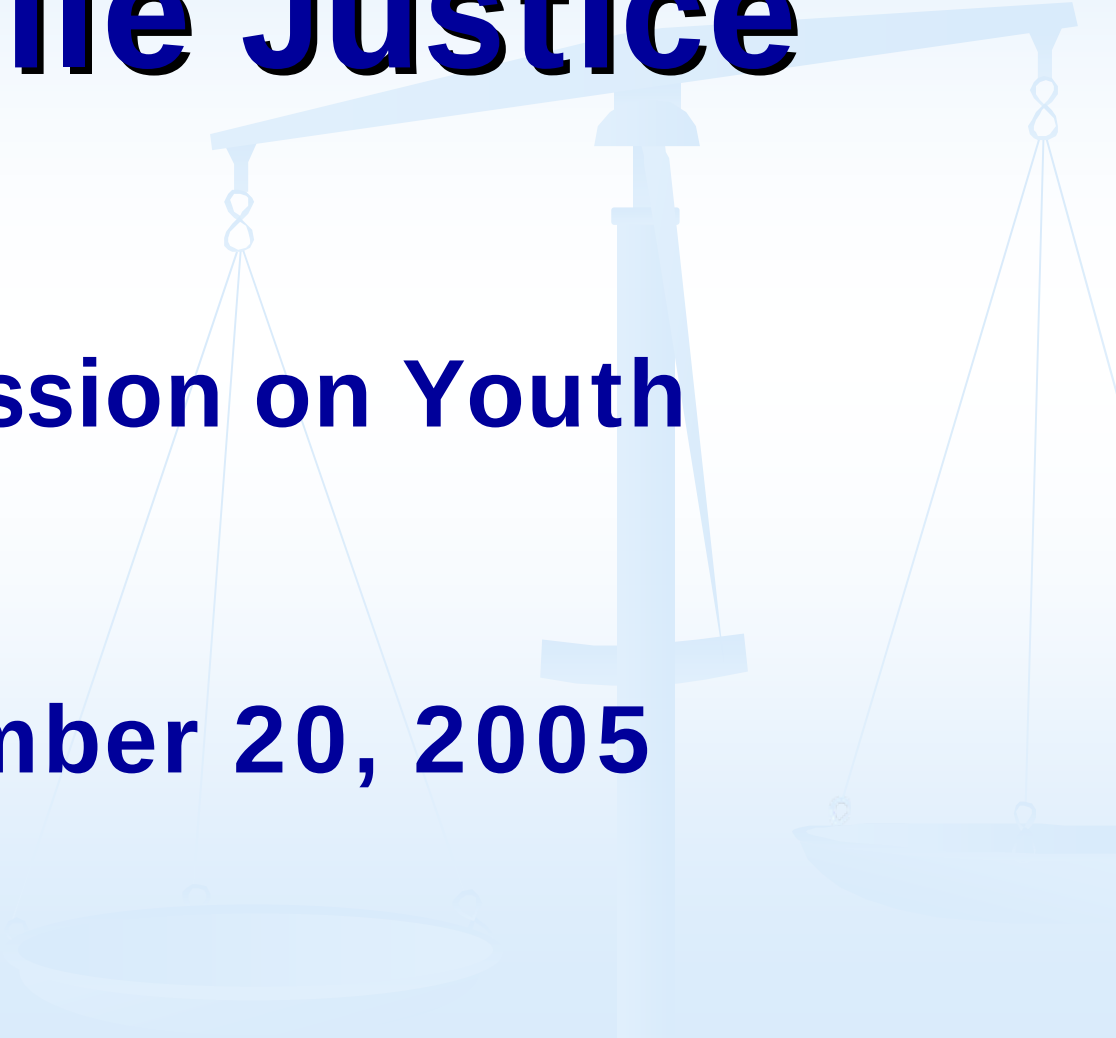


Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

A faint, light blue background image of a balance scale is visible on the right side of the slide. The scale has a vertical central column with a horizontal beam across the top. Two pans are suspended from the beam by thin lines. The scale is slightly tilted to the right.

Commission on Youth

September 20, 2005

HB 2657 (Delegate BaCote)

Juvenile work release program established.

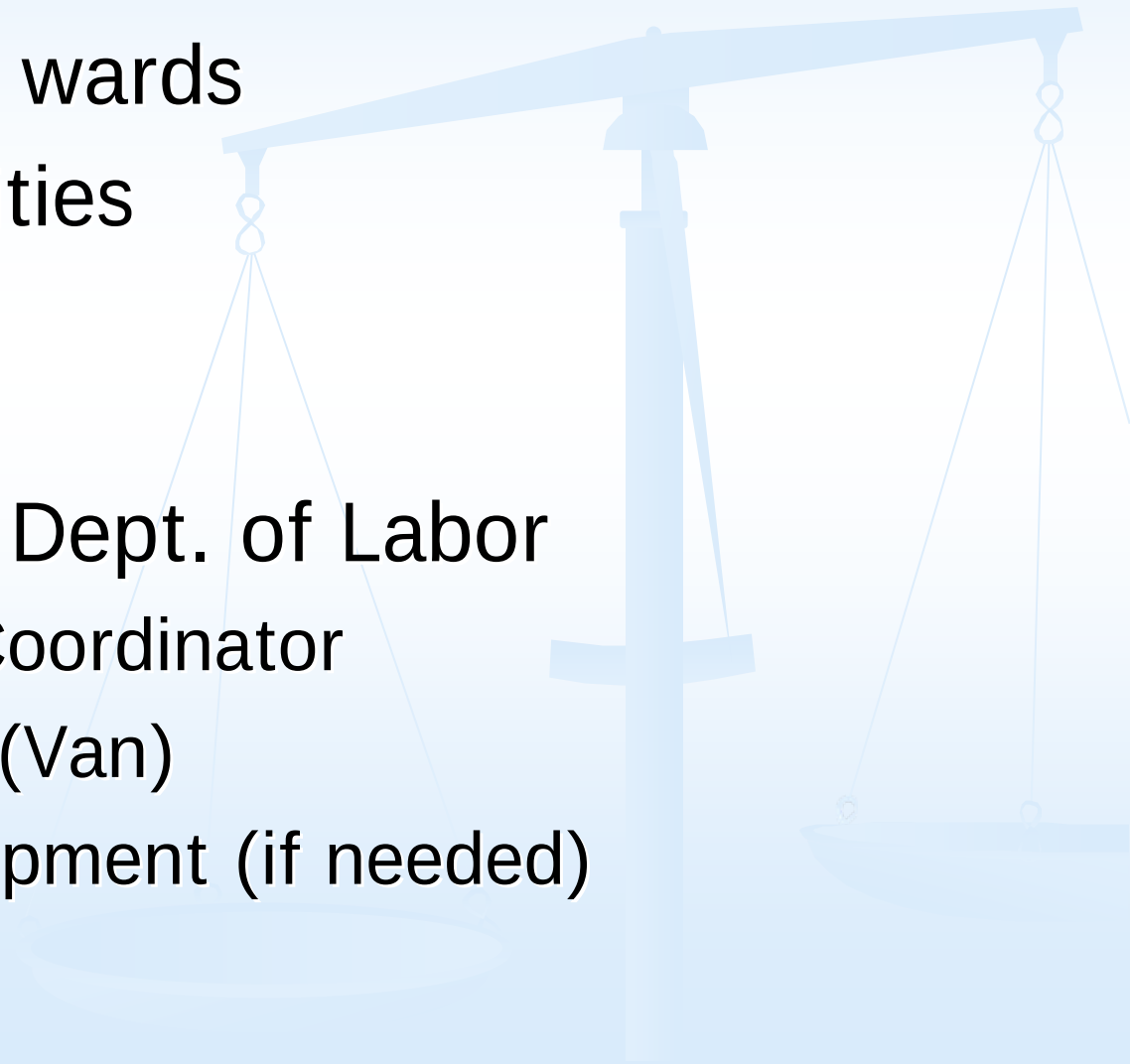
- Requires the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide opportunities for committed juveniles to work and participate in career training or technical education programs outside of the correctional facility.
- Sets forth eligibility criteria for work release.
- Directs the Department to promulgate regulations (within 280 days) and allows for a pilot program at one location beginning July 1, 2005.

The Department shall report to the General Assembly concerning the implementation of the pilot program in November 2005.

- Aside from the pilot program, the bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2006.

Work Release Pilot Program

- Natural Bridge JCC
- Capacity – 8-10 wards
- Work Opportunities
 - Business
 - Industrial
- Funded by U.S. Dept. of Labor
 - Work Release Coordinator
 - Transportation (Van)
 - Supplies & Equipment (if needed)



Selection & Placement

■ Selection Criteria

■ Age

- At least 17 years
- Those of mandatory school age must attend school and work only when the job does not interfere

■ Custody Classification Level 1 or Level 2

■ No major institutional offense within 90 days

■ Length of Stay

■ Indeterminate Wards

- Less than 12 months remaining prior to early release date
- Must have completed all mandatory treatment

■ Determinate Wards

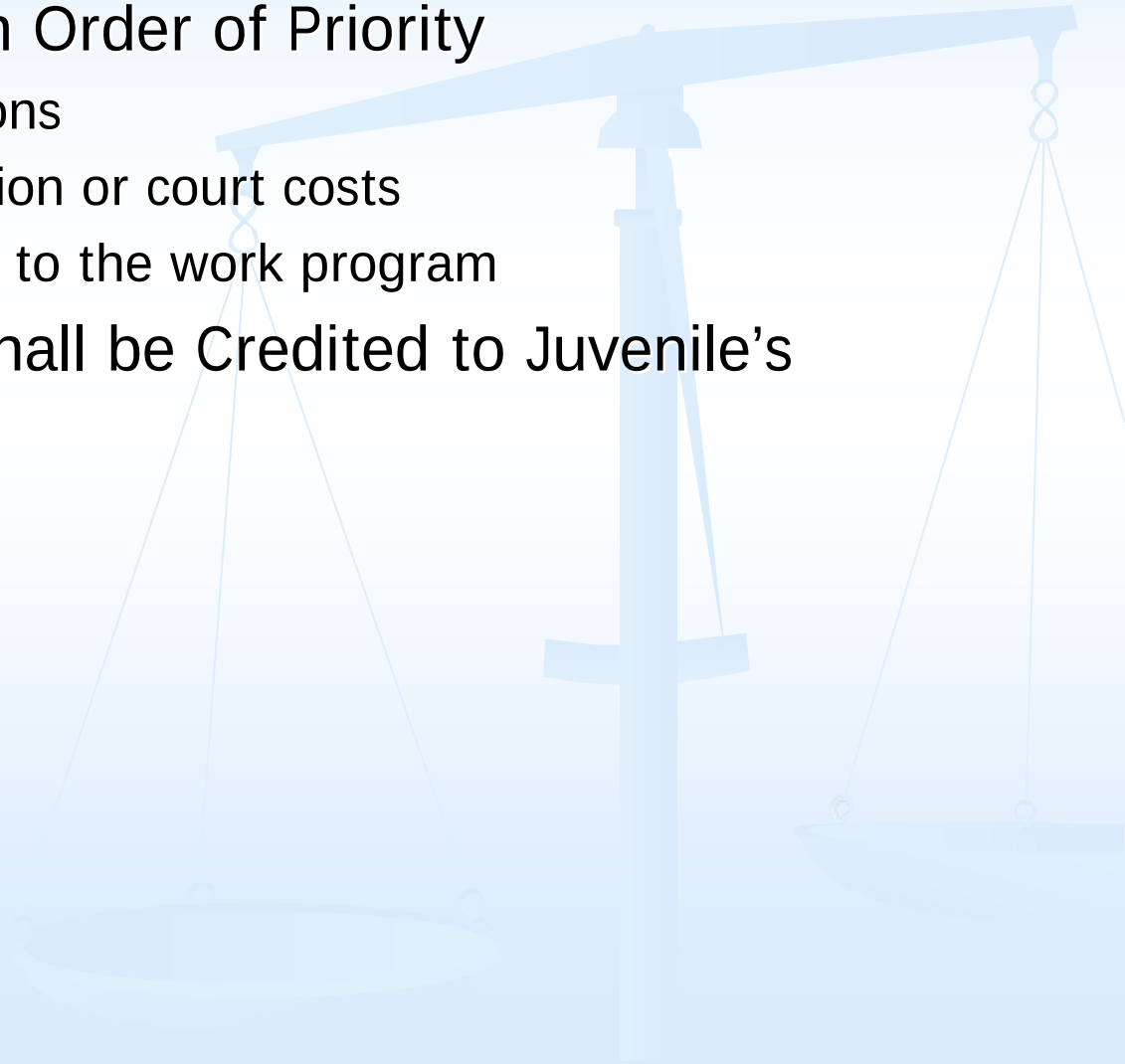
- May participate only with approval of the court
- May be recommended to the court when they are within 12 months of release

■ Placement Process

- Ward Applies or is Recommended by Counselor
- Approved by Facility Administration
- Approved by Departmental Administration
 - (Central Classification & Review Committee)
- Job Search/Interviews/Hiring Process
- Moved into separate Work Release Residence

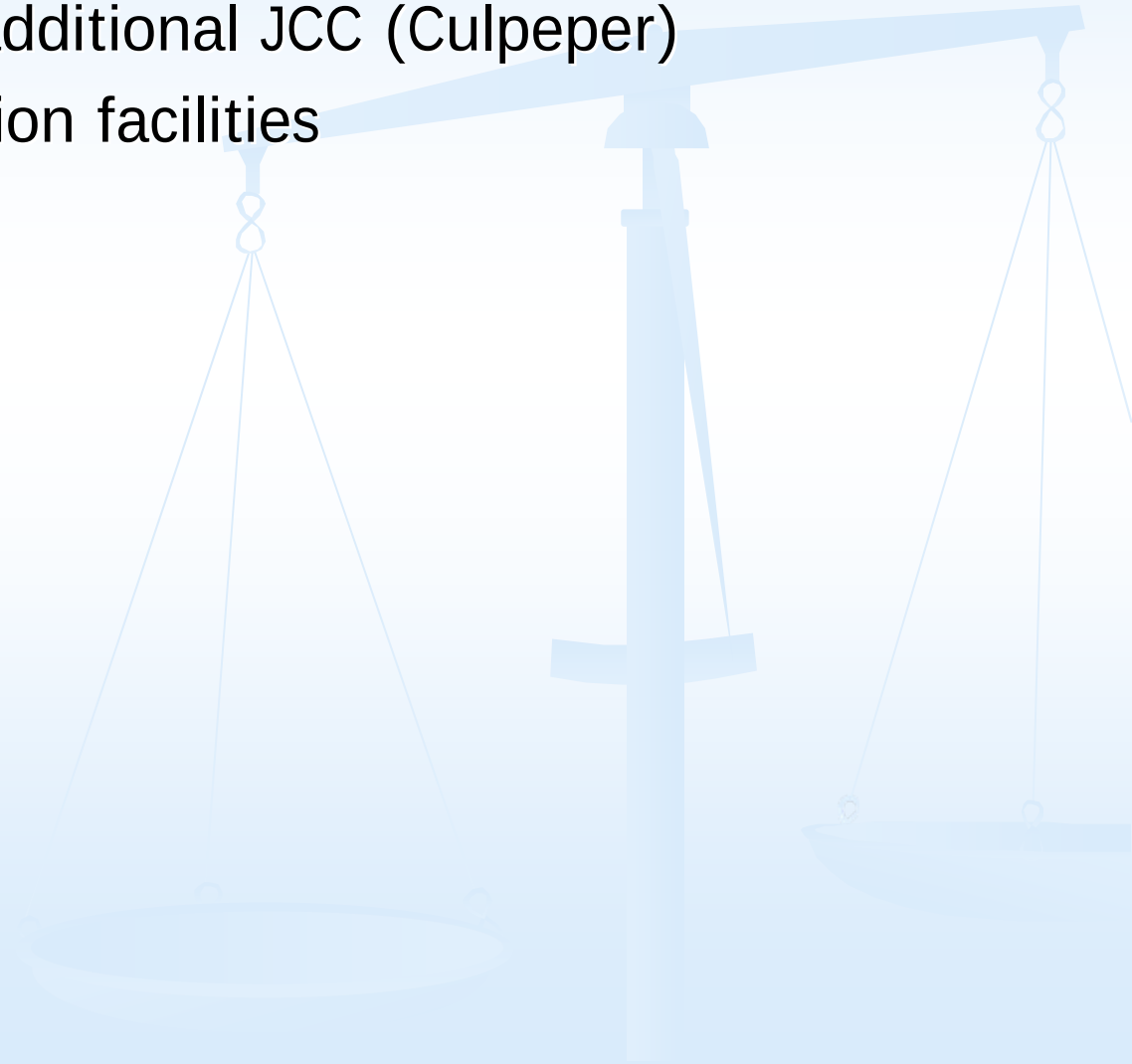
Compensation for Employment in Private Sector: Va. Code § 66-25.1:3 (C)

- Wages go to DJJ for Distribution
- Debts Shall be Paid in Order of Priority
 - Meet support obligations
 - Pay any fines, restitution or court costs
 - Pay travel etc. related to the work program
- Remaining Balance Shall be Credited to Juvenile's Account



Potential Future Growth

- Expand current program at Natural Bridge JCC
- Expand program to additional JCC (Culpeper)
- Through local detention facilities



Potential Benefits of Work Release

- Actual work experience
- Responsibility
- Interview experience
- Earnings
- Sense of accomplishment

