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**Support HB 1642, SB 1085 and SB 1140:
Solitary Confinement; Data Collection and Reporting**

- Solitary confinement is the isolation of a person in a jail or prison cell for approximately 22-24 hours a day with little human interaction and denial of normal stimulation.
- Scientific research has concluded that prolonged solitary confinement inflicts immense physical and psychological damage. It exacerbates and even causes mental illness.
- Solitary confinement is completely undefined, unregulated and unreported in Virginia.
- It is not part of anyone's criminal sentence and can be imposed on any incarcerated person including people with mental illness and members of other vulnerable populations.
- While the international human rights standard is that no one should be held in solitary for more than 15 days, an ACLU of Virginia report noted the average length of stay in Virginia prisons is 2.7 years.
- Yet, the Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC) denies any widespread use of solitary confinement despite vast evidence to the contrary.
- HB 1642, sponsored by Del. Patrick Hope, as well as SB 1085, sponsored by Sen. David Marsden, and SB 1140, sponsored by Sen. Barbara Favola, would require the VDOC to collect data on the practice of solitary confinement in Virginia prisons and report it to the General Assembly and the governor once a year.
- If the VDOC is being honest about its practices, there should be no objection to a requirement that this information be collected and reported.