

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

BILL DESTEPH
20TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF ACCOMACK AND NORTHAMPTON
COUNTIES; AND PART OF THE CITIES OF
NORFOLK AND VIRGINIA BEACH

588 CENTRAL DRIVE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23454



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COMMERCE AND LABOR
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Legislation Protecting Crime Victims to Be Heard in Senate Committee on Friday, February 6, 2026

Richmond, VA – Senator Bill DeSteph will present **SB 209**, legislation addressing the **conditional release of geriatric prisoners**, before the **Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee** on **Friday, February 6, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.**

SB 209 expands the list of serious offenses that prohibit an incarcerated individual from petitioning the Virginia Parole Board for conditional release as a geriatric prisoner. The legislation is intended to strengthen protections for crime victims and their families by ensuring that individuals convicted of particularly violent and heinous crimes are not eligible for early release based solely on age.

The committee meeting will include **testimony from crime victims and survivors**, whose voices remain central to the consideration of this legislation.

“Victims and their families should not be forced to relive their trauma year after year through repeated parole proceedings,” said Senator DeSteph. “SB 209 prioritizes public safety and respects the lifelong impact these crimes have on victims.”

Friday’s meeting will take place in the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee room at the General Assembly Building in Richmond. Senator DeSteph is available for questions by calling 804.698.7520 or emailing senatordesteph@senate.virginia.gov. Additional information, including victim impact statements, is available upon request.

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