



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Amendment

LCO No. 7705

HB0740707705HDO

Offered by:

REP. DILLON, 92nd Dist.

REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 7407

File No. 655

Cal. No. 525

**"AN ACT CONCERNING A DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP AND THE RIGHTS OF INMATES
WITH MENTAL ILLNESS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) Any inmate confined in
4 a correctional facility of the Department of Correction shall have the
5 opportunity to submit confidential written requests for mental health
6 services seven days a week and to be interviewed by qualified mental
7 health professionals or mental health staff in a setting that provides
8 reasonable privacy from being overheard by other inmates and
9 custodial staff who are not mental health staff members.

10 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) Any inmate confined in a
11 correctional facility of the Department of Correction who has been
12 diagnosed with a mental illness by a psychiatrist licensed pursuant to
13 chapter 370 of the general statutes and who has been determined by

14 such psychiatrist to be dangerous to himself or herself or others shall
15 receive individualized, clinically appropriate and culturally competent
16 mental health services to assess and treat such inmate's condition.

17 (b) Before the release of any inmate diagnosed with a mental illness
18 as provided in subsection (a) of this section from a correctional facility,
19 the Department of Correction shall collaborate with the Judicial
20 Department, the Department of Social Services and the Department of
21 Mental Health and Addiction Services as necessary to assist such
22 inmate in obtaining housing, mental health treatment services, any
23 public benefits for which the inmate is eligible and employment
24 counseling upon the inmate's release.

25 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) Not later than October 1,
26 2010, all custodial staff members at each correctional facility of the
27 Department of Correction shall receive not less than sixteen hours of
28 training each year on mental health issues. Such training shall consist
29 of classroom instruction and written materials provided by qualified
30 mental health professionals in conjunction with a training academy
31 accredited by the American Correctional Association, and shall
32 include, at a minimum: (1) Prevention of suicide and self-injury; (2)
33 recognition of signs of mental illness; (3) communication skills for
34 interacting with inmates with mental illness; and (4) alternatives to
35 disciplinary action and the use of force when dealing with inmates
36 with mental illness.

37 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section,
38 not later than October 1, 2010, all custodial staff members at each
39 correctional facility of the Department of Correction in which female
40 inmates are confined shall receive not less than sixteen hours of
41 training each year on the unique mental health, substance abuse and
42 reentry issues faced by female inmates.

43 (c) Commencing on the effective date of this section, the
44 Commissioner of Correction shall phase in the training required by
45 this section in such manner as the commissioner shall determine.

46 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) On or before February first
47 of each year, the Commissioner of Correction, in consultation with a
48 representative of The University of Connecticut Health Center having
49 responsibility for the administration of the contract with the
50 Department of Correction concerning the provision of health care
51 services to inmates of the department, shall submit a report to the joint
52 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
53 matters relating to the judiciary, public health and appropriations and
54 the budgets of state agencies, in accordance with the provisions of
55 section 11-4a of the general statutes. Such report shall set forth: (1) The
56 number of inmates who are diagnosed with a mental illness; (2) a
57 description of the mental health services provided to such inmates; (3)
58 the number of qualified mental health professionals and mental health
59 staff available to provide such mental health services, including the
60 number of any authorized and unfilled positions for such professionals
61 and staff; and (4) the impact of mandatory overtime on (A) the quality
62 of mental health services provided to such inmates, and (B) the morale
63 of the mental health professionals and mental health staff providing
64 such mental health services.

65 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 19a-7d of the general statutes is
66 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
67 *October 1, 2007*):

68 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health may establish, within
69 available appropriations, a program to provide three-year grants to
70 community-based providers of primary care services in order to
71 expand access to health care for the uninsured. The grants may be
72 awarded to community-based providers of primary care for (1)
73 funding for direct services, (2) recruitment and retention of primary
74 care clinicians and registered nurses through subsidizing of salaries or
75 through a loan repayment program, and (3) capital expenditures. The
76 community-based providers of primary care under the direct service
77 program shall provide, or arrange access to, primary and preventive
78 services, referrals to specialty services, including rehabilitative and
79 mental health services, inpatient care, prescription drugs, basic

80 diagnostic laboratory services, health education and outreach to alert
 81 people to the availability of services. Primary care clinicians and
 82 registered nurses participating in the state loan repayment program or
 83 receiving subsidies shall provide services to the uninsured based on a
 84 sliding fee schedule, provide free care if necessary, accept Medicare
 85 assignment and participate as a Medicaid provider, or provide nursing
 86 services in school-based health centers. Registered nurses who provide
 87 nursing services to inmates in correctional facilities of the Department
 88 of Correction shall be eligible to participate in the loan repayment
 89 program under this section. The commissioner may adopt regulations,
 90 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish eligibility
 91 criteria, services to be provided by participants, the sliding fee
 92 schedule, reporting requirements and the loan repayment program.
 93 For the purposes of this section, "primary care clinicians" includes
 94 family practice physicians, general practice osteopaths, obstetricians
 95 and gynecologists, internal medicine physicians, pediatricians,
 96 dentists, certified nurse midwives, advanced practice registered
 97 nurses, physician assistants and dental hygienists."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	19a-7d(a)