



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2007

LCO No. 7978

HB0740707978HDO

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*) (a) When assessing and
4 subsequently providing mental health services to any inmate confined
5 in a correctional facility of the Department of Correction who has been
6 diagnosed with a mental illness by a psychiatrist licensed pursuant to
7 chapter 370 of the general statutes, and such psychiatrist has informed
8 the department that such inmate is currently diagnosed by such
9 psychiatrist to be a danger to himself or herself or others, the
10 department shall consider the diagnosis of such psychiatrist in order to
11 appropriately assess such inmate and provide individualized,
12 clinically appropriate and culturally competent mental health services
13 to treat such inmate's condition.

14 (b) All custodial staff members at each correctional facility of the
15 Department of Correction in which female inmates are confined shall
16 receive not less than eight hours of training on mental health issues
17 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. Such training shall consist
18 of classroom instruction and written materials provided by a qualified
19 mental health professional in conjunction with a training academy
20 accredited by the American Correctional Association, and shall
21 include, at a minimum: (1) Prevention of suicide and self-injury; (2)
22 recognition of signs of mental illness; (3) communication skills for
23 interacting with inmates with mental illness; and (4) alternatives to
24 disciplinary action and the use of force when dealing with inmates
25 with mental illness. The curriculum for such training shall be tailored
26 to recognize gender specific mental health issues faced by female
27 inmates.

28 (c) Before the planned release of any inmate diagnosed with a
29 mental illness as provided in subsection (a) of this section from a
30 correctional facility, the Department of Correction shall collaborate
31 with the Judicial Department, the Department of Social Services and
32 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, as deemed
33 necessary and within available appropriations, to assist such inmate in
34 obtaining housing, mental health treatment services, any public
35 benefits for which the inmate is eligible and employment counseling
36 upon the inmate's release.

37 (d) On February first of each year, the Commissioner of Correction
38 shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General
39 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, public
40 health and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in
41 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
42 Such report shall set forth (1) the number of inmates who have been
43 determined to require mental health services during the previous
44 calendar year, and (2) a description of program services provided by
45 the Department of Correction and, if applicable, its contracted health
46 services provider."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	New section