



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2007

LCO No. 8650

HB0740708650HDO

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) (1) The Department of Correction shall, within available
15 appropriations, develop a program for custodial staff members to
16 receive not less than eight hours of training on mental health issues
17 each year. Such training shall consist of classroom instruction and
18 written materials provided by a qualified mental health professional in
19 conjunction with a training academy accredited by the American
20 Correctional Association, and shall include, at a minimum: (A)
21 Prevention of suicide and self-injury; (B) recognition of signs of mental
22 illness; (C) communication skills for interacting with inmates with
23 mental illness; and (D) alternatives to disciplinary action and the use of
24 force when dealing with inmates with mental illness. Such program
25 shall be offered to: (i) All custodial staff members at the Osborn
26 Correctional Institution not later than July 1, 2009; (ii) all custodial staff
27 members at the Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution not later
28 than July 1, 2010; and (iii) all custodial staff members at the
29 MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution not later than July 1, 2011.
30 On or before February 1, 2008, the Department of Correction shall
31 submit to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
32 having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, public health
33 and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in accordance
34 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, a written
35 plan for the expansion of such program to provide training on mental
36 health issues to custodial staff members at all correctional facilities in
37 this state.

38 (2) In addition to the requirements of subdivision (1) of this
39 subsection, all custodial staff members at each correctional facility of
40 the Department of Correction in which female inmates are confined
41 shall, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, receive not less than
42 eight hours of training on mental health issues, including gender
43 specific and trauma related mental health issues faced by female
44 inmates.

45 (c) Before the planned release of any inmate diagnosed with a
46 mental illness as provided in subsection (a) of this section from a
47 correctional facility, the Department of Correction shall collaborate

48 with the Judicial Department, the Department of Social Services and
 49 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, as deemed
 50 necessary and within available appropriations, to assist such inmate in
 51 obtaining housing, mental health treatment services, any public
 52 benefits for which the inmate is eligible and employment counseling
 53 upon the inmate's release.

54 (d) On February first of each year, the Commissioner of Correction
 55 shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General
 56 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, public
 57 health and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in
 58 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
 59 Such report shall set forth (1) the number of inmates who have been
 60 determined to require mental health services during the previous
 61 calendar year, and (2) a description of program services provided by
 62 the Department of Correction and, if applicable, its contracted health
 63 services provider."

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