



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6704

LCO No. 5099

05099_____JUD

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING PRISON OVERCROWDING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 18-101a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Correction, at the commissioner's
4 discretion, may extend the limits of the place of confinement of an
5 inmate as to whom there is reasonable belief he or she will honor his or
6 her trust, by authorizing the inmate under prescribed conditions to
7 visit a specifically designated place or places, within or without the
8 state, for periods not exceeding [thirty] forty-five days and return to
9 the same or another institution or facility. Such periods may be
10 renewed at the discretion of the commissioner. Such furlough may be
11 granted only [to permit a] for: (1) A visit to a dying relative, (2)
12 attendance at the funeral of a relative, (3) the obtaining of medical
13 services not otherwise available, [or] (4) the contacting of prospective
14 employers, [provided the commissioner has confirmed that an
15 employment opportunity exists or an employment interview is
16 scheduled] or (5) with respect to a nonviolent offender, any compelling

17 reason consistent with rehabilitation. Any inmate who fails to return
18 from furlough as provided in the furlough agreement shall be guilty of
19 the crime of escape in the first degree. For the purposes of this
20 subsection, "nonviolent offender" means a person whose eligibility for
21 parole release is not subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of
22 section 54-125a.

23 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 968 to the contrary,
24 prior to releasing an inmate on a furlough pursuant to subdivision (5)
25 of subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner of Correction shall
26 provide notice of such scheduled furlough to any victim who has filed
27 a request pursuant to subsection (a) of section 54-228 to be notified
28 whenever that inmate is scheduled to be released from a correctional
29 institution. The victim may submit a written statement to the
30 commissioner concerning whether or not the inmate should be
31 released on a furlough. The commissioner shall consider the statement
32 of the victim when deciding whether to release the inmate on a
33 furlough and shall send a written reply to the victim explaining the
34 reasons for the commissioner's decision.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	18-101a

Statement of Purpose:

To authorize the Commissioner of Correction to use a reentry furlough to release nonviolent offenders into the community provided the commissioner notifies any victim in advance of such release and considers the victim's views concerning such furlough.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]