



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 710

January Session, 2011

Substitute House Bill No. 6596

House of Representatives, May 3, 2011

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. FOX, G. of the 146th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION IN CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) The Department of
2 Correction shall establish an advisory committee in each municipality
3 in which a correctional facility is located and in which a public safety
4 committee has not been established pursuant to section 18-81h of the
5 general statutes. The committee shall be composed of the warden of
6 the correctional facility and five members, appointed jointly by the
7 members of the General Assembly who represent the municipality,
8 one of whom shall represent the business community, one of whom
9 shall represent a social services agency, one of whom shall represent
10 the local law enforcement agency and two of whom shall represent the
11 community at large. No member of the committee shall be a person
12 who is serving a period of probation or parole.

13 (b) The committee shall meet not less than quarterly and at such
14 other times as deemed necessary to discuss the demographics of the

15 facility's inmate population, policies and practices of the department,
16 facility programming and reentry initiatives.

17 (c) On or before January 1, 2012, the committee shall submit a
18 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the
19 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
20 of matters relating to the Department of Correction that outlines issues
21 of concern and makes recommendations to mitigate such concerns.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2011	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1(c), the reference to section 11-4a was added for consistency with the style of the general statutes.

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

No fiscal impact will result from requiring the Department of Correction to establish three additional advisory committees (in Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven). It is anticipated that members will not be compensated or reimbursed for expenses.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6596*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION IN CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to establish advisory committees in towns with a correctional facility that do not have a public safety committee as required by law (see BACKGROUND).

Under the bill, an advisory committee consists of the facility warden and the following five members appointed jointly by the legislators who represent the town: a business community representative, a social services agency representative, a local law enforcement agency representative, and two members of the community. No one who is on parole or probation can be a member.

The bill requires the advisory committee to meet as necessary but at least quarterly to discuss inmate population demographics, DOC policies and practices, facility programming, and reentry initiatives. It requires each committee to report to the Judiciary Committee on its concerns and recommendations by January 1, 2012.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

BACKGROUND***Public Safety Committees in Towns with DOC Facilities***

The law requires DOC to establish public safety committees, composed of the warden and representatives appointed by the town's chief elected official, in each town with a correctional facility. Each committee reviews safety and security issues and annually reports to the legislature's Public Safety and Security Committee.

DOC must notify a chief elected official and public safety committee of a new agreement or renewal of one with public agencies (other than Connecticut agencies) on placement, custody, or care in a facility of people under the agency's jurisdiction, specifying the action planned and security measures and procedures for cooperation with local police. The official and committee can hold a public hearing on the notice and file written comments with DOC (CGS §§ 18-81h, -81o).

According to DOC, Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven currently have no public safety committees.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 42 Nay 0 (04/14/2011)