

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 11-148**—sHB 6596

*Judiciary Committee*

*Planning and Development Committee*

*Government Administration and Elections Committee*

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

**SUMMARY:** This act 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 act, an advisory committee consists of the facility warden and the following five members appointed jointly by 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 act 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. According to DOC, Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven currently have no public safety committees (CGS § 18-81h).

OLR Tracking: CR:RC:PF:ts