



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 84**

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 6546

*House of Representatives, March 21, 2019*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. STEINBERG of the 136th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE PREVALENCE OF THE HEPATITIS C VIRUS IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND FACILITIES.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective October 1, 2019*) The Department of Correction, in  
2 collaboration with the Department of Public Health, the Insurance  
3 Department and the Comptroller, shall study the prevalence of  
4 inmates in correctional institutions and facilities with the hepatitis C  
5 virus. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, the (1)  
6 screening of inmates for the hepatitis C virus, (2) feasibility of  
7 treatment of inmates who test positive for the virus, (3) health  
8 outcomes of such inmates, (4) cost of and insurance coverage for such  
9 treatment, and (5) feasibility of leveraging available federal funds to  
10 cover the cost of such treatment. Not later than January 1, 2020, the  
11 Commissioner of Correction shall report, in accordance with the  
12 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the  
13 findings of such study.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Correction, Dept.	GF - Cost	412,765	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Correction (DOC) in collaboration with various state agencies to study the prevalence of hepatitis C in inmates and results in a cost of \$412,765 in FY 20. DOC will need to provide a rapid blood test to the entire prison population (13,315 inmates costing approximately \$293,000) and then a full blood test to those who tested positive (approximately 15% of the population is anticipated to test positive costing approximately \$120,000).

If treatment of inmates is required in the future it would cost between \$43 million to \$158 million depending on the course and length of treatment required.

**The Out Years**

The fiscal impact of identifying inmates with hepatitis C is one time only in FY 20.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 6546**

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**SUMMARY**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/01/2019)