

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 19-167**—sHB 7217

*Judiciary Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF INMATES SUFFERING FROM OPIOID USE DISORDER AND REPEALING OBSOLETE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION STATUTES**

**SUMMARY:** This act requires the Department of Correction (DOC) commissioner to provide information on opioid use disorder treatment options to inmates who self-identify as suffering from, or relapsing with, an opioid use disorder. The information must (1) be provided at least 45 days before the inmate is released from DOC custody, including release subject to parole or to a supervised community setting (e.g., a halfway house), and (2) include ways to access treatment options after being released into the community.

The act also repeals obsolete DOC statutes on (1) employing prisoners sentenced to death (this penalty was repealed under state law in 2012 and found unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court for previously sentenced inmates in 2015); (2) the Enfield Medium Correctional Institution (the facility closed on January 23, 2018); and (3) a debit account system pilot program for inmate phone calls.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2019, except the repeal of obsolete DOC statutes is effective upon passage.