AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO RECORDS BY PERSONS WHO ARE INJURED WHILE IN THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTION.

SUMMARY

This bill allows an inmate, his or her legal representative, or the legal representative of an inmate’s estate, who makes a written request for documents to the Department of Correction (DOC) commissioner to receive them in certain circumstances. The bill applies to document requests made in connection with (1) a fatal injury suffered by the inmate while incarcerated or (2) an injury that resulted in the inmate suffering a permanent disability while incarcerated.

The bill requires the DOC commissioner to ensure that the documents are provided within 60 days after receiving the written request, unless state or federal law otherwise prohibits their disclosure. Under the bill, the requester may receive all relevant personnel, protocol or policy reviews, medical files, medical reviews, corrective action plans, or summary reports in DOC’s possession.

The bill also requires the DOC commissioner to adopt implementing regulations, which must include (1) a dispute resolution process for resolving any dispute concerning DOC’s production of documents under the bill and (2) the fees, if any, that DOC may impose when complying with such a request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 39 Nay 0 (04/08/2019)