

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6463

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION, A REENTRY EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES IN MUNICIPALITIES WHERE A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IS LOCATED, THE DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS, THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA RELATING TO AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND THE PROVISION OF DEBIT CARDS TO INCARCERATED PERSONS AT

Title: THE TIME OF RELEASE.

Vote Date: 4/5/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/22/2021

File No.: 595

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This is the Department of Corrections annual agency bill. This makes various changes including codifying current practice by allowing the Commissioner to designate a deputy warden to serve as director of reentry services and establishes a reentry employment advisory to advise the Commissioner on aligning the department's education and job training programs. It also requires the Department of Corrections to provide inmates with debit cards for any compensation they earned performing certain jobs, upon their release.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language revises Section 2 replacing the Technical Education and Career System representative with a business representative serving on the Governor's Workforce Council. The substitute language also specifies that the three additional members on the Governor's Workforce Council must represent business and/or business associations. The substitute language also changes the effective date in Section 7 to January 1, 2022.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

State of Connecticut Department of Corrections, Commissioner, Angel Quiros; supports this bill stating that it is the Department's sole legislative proposal which is comprised of technical

or minor statutory changes. It is also stated that while Section 7 was not part of the Department's submission, it is supported to provide inmates with debit cards in lieu of checks for monies in their accounts however, it is requested that the effective date be moved to January 1, 2022. (The substitute language addressed this change).

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut, Interim Senior Policy Counsel, Kelly McConney Moore; supports Sections 1 and 2 of this bill stating that people in the criminal justice system who have finished their sentences deserve to live life without barriers. It is stated that the barriers have worsened throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and formerly incarcerated people will be the last to see unemployment rates lower. It is stated that the Department of Corrections must undertake a process to promote reentry employment before people are at the end of their sentences which a Director of Reentry can spearhead.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted

Reported by: Pamela Bianca

Date: April 18, 2021