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## OLR Bill Analysis

### SB 957

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERSIGHT OF HEALTH CARE IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes, within the Department of Public Health and by January 1, 2024, an Office of Oversight of Health Care in Correctional Institutions.

The office must:

1. ensure that the Department of Correction (DOC) commissioner implements the plan for inmate health care services developed under last year's legislation (see BACKGROUND);
2. establish guidelines for the delivery of inmate health care services and recommend any necessary changes or improvements to their delivery; and
3. by January 1, 2025, consulting with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, make a model plan with requirements for DOC's delivery of quality health care services to inmates.

The office also must do periodic inspections of correctional institutions to ensure the adequate and safe health care service delivery to inmates. The office must issue notices to a correctional institution of any failure to meet this standard and order corrective action.

Lastly, starting by January 1, 2025, the office must annually report to the Public Health and Judiciary committees. The reports must address (1) the adequacy and safety of DOC's delivery of health care services to inmates, (2) the development of the model plan and DOC's

implementation of it, (3) the findings of correctional facility inspections, and (4) recommendations for any legislation needed to improve the delivery of quality health care services to inmates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

**BACKGROUND**

***2022 Legislation Requiring Plan for Inmate Health Care Services***

PA 22-133 (codified at CGS § 18-81pp) required the DOC commissioner to develop and report on a plan for providing health care services to inmates at DOC correctional institutions, including mental health, substance use disorder, and dental care services. By law, the plan must include several components, such as ensuring that (1) there are enough mental health therapists at each correctional institution to provide mental health care services to inmates and (2) each inmate gets an initial health assessment and, when clinically indicated, an annual physical exam and an exit interview about a medical discharge plan. DOC submitted the plan earlier this year.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 35    Nay 0    (03/03/2023)