



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 68**

January Session, 2023

Senate Bill No. 957

*Senate, March 14, 2023*

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. ANWAR of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) Not later than January 1,  
2 2024, there shall be established within the Department of Public Health  
3 an Office of Oversight of Health Care in Correctional Institutions. The  
4 office shall be responsible for oversight of the delivery of health care  
5 services to inmates in correctional institutions, including, but not  
6 limited to: (1) Ensuring that the Commissioner of Correction  
7 implements the plan for the provision of health care services to inmates  
8 developed pursuant to section 18-81pp of the general statutes; (2)  
9 establishing guidelines for the delivery of health care services to  
10 inmates; (3) conducting periodic inspections of correctional institutions  
11 to ensure that the delivery of health care services to inmates is adequate  
12 and safe; (4) recommending any necessary changes or improvements to  
13 the delivery of health care services to inmates; (5) issuing notice to a  
14 correctional institution of any failure on the part of the correctional

15 institution to deliver adequate or safe health care services; and (6)  
16 ordering corrective action to a correctional institution that was issued a  
17 notice pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection.

18 (b) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Office of Oversight of Health  
19 Care in Correctional Institutions shall, in consultation with the  
20 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, develop a model  
21 plan setting forth requirements concerning the delivery of quality health  
22 care services to inmates by the Department of Correction.

23 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Office  
24 of Oversight of Health Care in Correctional Institutions shall report, in  
25 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
26 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
27 cognizance of matters relating to public health and the judiciary  
28 regarding (1) the adequacy and safety of the delivery of health care  
29 services to inmates by the Department of Correction, (2) the  
30 development of the model plan pursuant to subsection (b) of this section  
31 and implementation of such plan by the Department of Correction, (3)  
32 the findings of each inspection of a correctional facility performed  
33 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (4) recommendations for  
34 any legislation necessary to improve the delivery of quality health care  
35 services to inmates.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section

**PH**      *Joint Favorable*

*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 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	285,567	570,402
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	119,594	239,188

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

This bill establishes, within the Department of Public Health (DPH), by 1/1/24, an Office of Oversight of Health Care in Correctional Institutions ("the Office"), which results in an anticipated cost to DPH of \$285,567 in FY 24 and \$570,402 in FY 25 and a cost to the Office of State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits of \$119,594 in FY 24 and \$239,188 in FY 25.

Costs to DPH of \$279,295 in FY 24<sup>2</sup> and \$558,590 in FY 25 reflect the salaries of two Nurse Consultants, two Health Program Associates, a Supervising Nurse Consultant, a half-time Public Health Services Manager, and a half-time Office Assistant. Fringe benefits costs to the Office of State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits for these positions are approximately \$119,594 in FY 24 and \$239,188 in FY 25. DPH costs also include equipment costs of \$24,626 in FY 24 only, and other expenses costs of \$6,271 in FY 24 and \$11,812 in FY 25.

<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 42.82% of payroll in FY 24.

<sup>2</sup>As the Office of Oversight of Health Care in Correctional Institutions is to be established by 1/1/24, salary costs in FY 24 are for half of the fiscal year. Costs in FY 25 are annualized.

The Office will have responsibility overseeing the delivery of healthcare services to approximately 10,000 inmates in 13 correctional institutions, including periodic inspections of the healthcare services provided, establishing guidelines for the delivery of healthcare services, recommending any necessary changes, notifying correctional institutions of any failures, and ordering corrective actions as needed. The Office is also required to work with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to develop a model plan establishing the requirements for the delivery of healthcare services in correctional institutions. The Office must annually report to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health and the judiciary on the adequacy and safety of healthcare services in correctional institutions, the development of the model plan, findings of each inspection conducted, and any recommendations to improve the delivery of quality healthcare services to inmates.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**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)