

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-350

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF BODY SCANNING MACHINES IN THE

Title: PUBLIC ENTRANCE AREAS OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

Vote Date: 3/28/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/13/2024

File No.: 504

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Sponsors of this bill believe that body scanners often demand adaptations, modifications, and oversight. This legislation would require the Commissioner of Correction to send a report on the use of body scanners, their placement, cost, and effectiveness at the public entrances of correctional facilities to the Connecticut General Assembly by January 1, 2025. This is an extension from the January 1, 2024 deadline.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Richard Cody: He testified in opposition to the bill because he finds it dehumanizing and unnecessary to subject family members who are visiting incarcerated loved ones to invasive searches. He believes body scanning raises privacy/security concerns.

Barbara Fair, Stop Solitary CT: She testified in opposition to the bill because in her interpretation, the bill as written doesn't include what they see as degrading and dehumanizing cavity and strip searches, which Fair also believes should be included in the Commissioner's report sent to the CT General Assembly, in addition to the report on the use of body scanners. She also opposes the portion of the bill that gives an extension to reports from the Commissioner of Correction to the CT General Assembly.

Cindy Prizio, One Standard of Justice: She testified in opposition to the bill because she would like to see all administration and staff be subjected to body scanning. She stated that she would support the bill if the legislation subjected not only inmates and the public to body scanning machines, but administration and staff as well.

Lauren Ruth, CT Voices: She testified in opposition to the bill as written because it gives a one-year extension to the Department of Correction (DOC) to produce a report on body scanners to the CT General Assembly. She believes that this may reveal challenges on the part of the DOC to purchase the scanners, determine how many machines they need, and address potential health risks associated with the scanners. She thinks that the extension reveals flaws in the system as it stands and that extending the deadline for the report does not do enough to address these issues.

Reported by: Allison Kyff

Date: 4-10-24