



## Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

### Office of the Secretary Office of Government and Legislative Affairs

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**BILL:** HOUSE BILL 1031

**POSITION:** LETTER OF INFORMATION

**EXPLANATION:** This bill will require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) submit a report to the Joint Committee on Ending Homeless with information and data as it relates to inmate releases.

#### **COMMENTS:**

- The Department's Division of Correction (DOC) operates approximately 17 State correctional facilities, which house offenders sentenced to incarceration for 18 months and longer.
- HB 1031 requires DPSCS to submit an annual statistics to the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness. While DPSCS is able to report on certain proposed data elements, DPSCS is unable to comply with the bill as drafted.
- HB 1031 will require DPSCS to report on the number of inmates released within the preceding 12 months.
  - DPSCS can certainly provide this information as it is publically available on its website. **However, DPSCS can only report this information for the DOC and not for local jails as DPSCS does not run local correctional facilities.**
- HB 1031 will require DPSCS to report on the number of inmates released within the preceding 12 months who did not have a stable permanent residence at the time of release or parole.
  - **DPSCS can provide the number of inmates who were released from the DOC with a "home plan," but "stable permanent residence" is overly vague.**

- Prior to release, all inmates leaving a State correctional facility must have a verifiable home plan. Home plans are a key component of the case planning for inmates that begins at intake, and dictates where they receive programming, transfer to hub facilities prior to release, and what work release options are available.
- In fiscal year (FY) 2019, 94% of all inmates released statewide had home plans. Thus far in FY20, all of the inmates with anticipated release dates in the next year have home plans completed.
- HB 1031 will require DPSCS to report on the number of released inmates who re-entered correctional facilities within a year of release or parole.
  - DPSCS can certainly provide this information as it reports this information annually through the Managing for Results process. **However, DPSCS can only report this information for the DOC and not for local jails as DPSCS does not run local correctional facilities.**
- HB 1031 requires DPSCS to report on the settings to which inmates without a stable permanent residence at the time of release or parole were released.
  - DPSCS is unable to determine “the settings” to which inmates without a “stable permanent residence” are released. DPSCS can provide the number of inmates who are released from the DOC without a “home plan.”
- DPSCS is committed to comprehensive reentry planning, programming, and support for all individuals leaving its custody. Individuals who are prepared for release and reintegration into their families and communities are less likely to recidivate.
- To clear up the ambiguity of the bill's reporting requirements, DPSCS offers the following amendment (see next page).

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1031  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, in line 3, strike “Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services” and substitute “Division of Correction”.

On page 2, strike beginning with “stable” in line 9 through “residence” in line 10 and substitute “home plan”.

On page 2, strike beginning with “the” in line 13 through “released” in line 14.

**CONCLUSION:** The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully asks this Committee to consider this information as it deliberates House Bill 1031.