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Patrick Moran - President

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## HB 64 - Office of the Attorney General - Correctional Ombudsman

### POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

AFSCME Council 3 represents 30,000 state and higher education employees, including the hard-working women and men who work in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). We support HB 64. This legislation establishes a Correctional Ombudsman in the Office of the Attorney General. HB 64 also establishes a Correctional Ombudsman Advisory Board consisting of 10 members appointed by the Attorney General, including representation from nonsupervisory correctional officers. We believe the below amendment is necessary in this appointment process:

#### AFSCME Proposed Amendment to HB 64

*Pg. 12, line 14; 6-706(E)(3)*

(3) Nonsupervisory Correctional Officers **recommended by the President of the American, Federation, of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 3;**

#### Reason for Amendment

We believe the intent of this section is to ensure that the nonsupervisory correctional officers who are appointed will be free to voice their concerns without being subject potentially to departmental policies that may seek to gag them or the fear of any retaliation by the administration. We believe the best way to guarantee this is to have the nonsupervisory correctional officers participate on the advisory board in their role with the union, and not solely as DPSCS employees. There is already precedent for such a selection process in the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services where this has worked well. We believe this will also work well with the Correctional Ombudsman Advisory Board.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to provide a favorable with amendment report on HB 64.

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An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.  
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