

# Judiciary Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-7251

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESOLUTION OF CLAIMS FOR WRONGFUL

**Title:** INCARCERATION BY THE CLAIMS COMMISSIONER.

**Vote Date:** 4/10/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/28/2025

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

To permit the Attorney General and a claimant to stipulate to facts and a compensation award that may, in certain instances, be approved by the Claims Commissioner without the need for the General Assembly to approve such agreement or stipulation.

### SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language makes several changes, the first of which are technical changes in section 1(a)(2). In section 1(c), the substitute language changes “shall present evidence” to “may present evidence”, brackets section 1(c)(1), and renumbers the remaining subdivisions. In section 1(f), new language is added permitting the Attorney General to ask for assistance from the Chief State’s attorney in determining facts relating to the wrongful incarceration. Additionally, current language states that cases settled for less than \$2.5 million are excluded from legislative review; new language was added to specify that the amount is lowered to \$1.5 million. Finally, in section 1(l), the phrase “in connection with a lawsuit to which the state is a party” is removed.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Amanda Wallwin, State Policy Advocate, Innocence Project**. She testified in support of this bill on behalf of the Innocence Project, which promotes policy reforms to assist and represent wrongfully convicted individuals. They particularly endorse HB-7251 as it “clarifies and streamlines” the Commissioner’s claims submission process for compensating exonerees, and builds from SB-439, An Act Concerning Compensation for Persons Who Are Wrongfully Incarcerated, from the 2024 legislative session.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by:** Genevieve Perruccio

**Date:** April 23, 2025