



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 1394

LCO No. 5430



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO INMATES IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Public
2 Health, in collaboration with the Department of Correction, shall
3 annually evaluate the health care services provided to inmates in
4 correctional institutions in the state to assess, from a public health and a
5 corrections perspective, whether best practices utilized in the provision
6 of health care services at health care facilities are being utilized in the
7 provision of such services at correctional facilities. Not later than
8 January 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Public
9 Health shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
10 of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
11 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health on such
12 evaluation.

13 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2026, the
14 Correction Ombuds appointed pursuant to section 18-81jj of the general
15 statutes shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a

16 of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
17 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health
18 regarding the provision of health care services to inmates of correctional
19 facilities, including, but not limited to, the number of personnel needed
20 in correctional facilities to (1) provide an appropriate level of health care
21 to inmates, and (2) inform inmates and their family members and
22 representatives regarding the (A) provision of health care services in
23 correctional facilities, and (B) method by which such family members
24 and representatives may inquire of a correctional facility about the
25 inmate's health or health care services received by the inmate.

26 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
27 study barriers in the recruitment and retention of health care personnel
28 within the Department of Correction.

29 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

30 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
31 one of whom is a representative of a collective bargaining unit that
32 represents health care personnel within the Department of Correction;

33 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

34 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
35 Representatives;

36 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

37 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
38 Representatives;

39 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

40 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
41 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
42 relating to public health, or the chairpersons' and ranking members'
43 designees;

44 (8) The Commissioners of Correction, Public Health and
45 Administrative Services, or the commissioners' designees;

46 (9) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
47 secretary's designee; and

48 (10) A representative of a collective bargaining unit representing
49 health care personnel within the Department of Correction, who shall
50 be appointed by the Governor.

51 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
52 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
53 of the General Assembly.

54 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
55 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
56 be filled by the appointing authority.

57 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
58 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
59 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
60 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
61 days after the effective date of this section.

62 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
63 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
64 health shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

65 (g) Not later than January 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report
66 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
67 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
68 health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
69 statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such
70 report or January 1, 2026, whichever is later.

71 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2026, the
72 Commissioner of Correction shall report, in accordance with the

73 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
74 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
75 relating to public health regarding the policies of the Department of
76 Correction concerning (1) the provision of health care services to
77 inmates of correctional facilities, (2) communication with health care
78 providers outside of the department regarding an inmate's medical
79 history while in a correctional facility, including, but not limited to,
80 obtaining and disclosing an inmate's medical records when appropriate,
81 and (3) a primary care provider's ability to obtain a former inmate's
82 medical history and medical records from the department after an
83 inmate's discharge from a correctional facility.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require evaluations of and reports concerning the provision of health care services to inmates in correctional facilities.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]