
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7210

AN ACT CONCERNING HALFWAY HOUSES AND OTHER RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES OPERATED ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION, DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES OR THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES.

SUMMARY

This bill makes changes related to state-contracted residential facilities, commonly referred to as “halfway houses,” operating on behalf of the Department of Correction (DOC), Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), or Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP, see BACKGROUND). These facilities usually serve as part of a person’s reentry from a DMHAS or DOC facility into the community, and residents generally remain in the custody of the department under whose jurisdiction they fall until specified terms and conditions are met.

Under the bill, any contract to operate such a facility must generally require that a resident’s discharge from the facility be done according to the resident’s discharge plan developed by DOC, DMHAS, or BOPP, as applicable. (Presumably, the departments and the board must develop these discharge plans going forward.)

The bill also requires these contracts to do the following:

1. prohibit a person operating a facility from discharging any resident due to the facility’s closure, unless the resident being discharged is being moved to a residential facility that the DOC or DMHAS commissioner or BOPP chairperson, as applicable, deem equivalent to the closing facility (the bill does not specify standards they must use to make this determination);
2. if no such equivalent facility is available, require the contracted

person to keep the closing facility operational until each resident is discharged in accordance with his or her discharge plan as mentioned above; and

3. require the contracted person who is closing a residential facility as described above to be responsible for any costs incurred in carrying out the bill's provisions.

The bill is silent on how it's provisions would be enforced.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Board of Pardons and Parole

BOPP is a board within DOC with independent decision-making authority to, among other things, (1) grant or deny parole, (2) establish parole conditions, (3) rescind or revoke parole or special parole, (4) grant commutations, (5) discharge any parolee or inmate eligible for parole from DOC custody, and (6) terminate special parole (CGS § 54-124a(f)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 12 (04/10/2025)