



General Assembly

Governor's Bill No. 89

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 617



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Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:

Request of the Governor Pursuant
to Joint Rule 9

AN ACT UPDATING PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION STANDARDS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 18-81cc of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 (a) Any agency of the state or any political subdivision of the state
4 that incarcerates or detains adult or juvenile offenders, including
5 persons detained for immigration violations, shall, within available
6 appropriations, [adopt and] comply with the [applicable standards
7 recommended by the National] standards of the Prison Rape
8 Elimination [Commission] Act, 34 USC 30301 et seq., in effect as of
9 January 1, 2024, for the prevention, detection and monitoring of, and
10 response to, sexual abuse in adult prisons and jails, community
11 correctional centers, juvenile facilities and lockups.

12 (b) Such standards include, but are not limited to:

13 (1) Zero tolerance of sexual abuse;

14 (2) Contracting with other entities for the confinement of inmates or
15 detainees;

16 (3) Inmate or detainee supervision;

17 (4) Heightened protection for vulnerable detainees;

18 (5) Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches;

19 (6) Accommodating inmates or detainees with special needs;

20 (7) Hiring and promotion decisions;

21 (8) Assessment and use of monitoring technology;

22 (9) Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations;

23 (10) Agreements with outside public entities and community service
24 providers;

25 (11) Agreements with outside law enforcement agencies;

26 (12) Agreements with the prosecuting authority;

27 (13) Employee training;

28 (14) Volunteer and contractor training;

29 (15) Inmate education;

30 (16) Detainee, attorney, contractor and inmate worker notification of
31 agency's zero-tolerance policy;

32 (17) Specialized training: Investigations;

33 (18) Specialized training: Medical and mental health care;

34 (19) Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness;

35 (20) Use of screening information;

36 (21) Inmate or detainee reporting;

37 (22) Exhaustion of administrative remedies;

38 (23) Inmate access to outside confidential support services or legal
39 representation;

40 (24) Third-party reporting;

41 (25) Staff and facility or agency head reporting duties, including, but
42 not limited to, mandatory transmission to the Office of the Correction
43 Ombuds of a copy of any report or complaint of a sexual assault;

44 (26) Reporting to other confinement facilities;

45 (27) Staff first responder duties;

46 (28) Coordinated response;

47 (29) Agency protection against retaliation;

48 (30) Duty to investigate;

49 (31) Criminal and administrative agency investigations;

50 (32) Evidence standard for administrative investigations;

51 (33) Disciplinary sanctions for staff;

52 (34) Disciplinary sanctions for inmates;

53 (35) Referrals for prosecution for detainee-on-detainee sexual abuse;

54 (36) Medical and mental health screenings: History of sexual abuse;

55 (37) Access to emergency medical and mental health services;

56 (38) Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims
57 and abusers;

58 (39) Immediate and ongoing access to sexual assault crisis services;

59 [(39)] (40) Sexual abuse incident reviews;

60 [(40)] (41) Data collection;

61 [(41)] (42) Data review for corrective action;

62 [(42)] (43) Data storage, publication, and destruction; and

63 [(43)] (44) Audits of standards.

64 (c) The agency head of any agency of the state or the chief elected
65 official or governing legislative body of any political subdivision of the
66 state that incarcerates or detains juvenile offenders shall, annually, not
67 later than January fifteenth, certify its compliance with the provisions of
68 subsections (a) and (b) of this section to the Criminal Justice Policy and
69 Planning Division within the Office of Policy and Management.

70 (d) Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the
71 Commissioner of Correction shall report, in accordance with the
72 provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
73 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
74 Department of Correction, concerning the following: (1) Training
75 provided to department staff concerning compliance with the Prison
76 Rape Elimination Act, 34 USC 30301 et seq., in effect as of January 1,
77 2024; (2) the number of reports of sexual assault and the types of sexual
78 assault reported; and (3) how many of such reports were investigated
79 and the outcome of each such investigation.

80 (e) The Commissioner of Correction shall, not later than January 1,
81 2027, adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54
82 to implement the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

83 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 18-81qq of the 2026 supplement to the
84 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
85 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

86 (a) (1) There is, within the Office of Governmental Accountability
87 established under section 1-300, the Office of the Correction Ombuds for
88 the provision of ombuds services. The Correction Ombuds appointed
89 pursuant to section 18-81jj shall be the head of said office.

90 (2) For purposes of this section, "ombuds services" includes:

91 (A) Evaluating the delivery of services to persons who are
92 incarcerated by the Department of Correction;

93 (B) Reviewing periodically the nonemergency procedures
94 established by the department to carry out the provisions of title 18 and
95 evaluating whether such procedures conflict with the rights of persons
96 who are incarcerated;

97 (C) Receiving communications, including telephone calls and
98 electronic mail from persons who are incarcerated, who shall be
99 permitted to make such telephone or electronic mail communications
100 free of charge, regarding decisions, actions, omissions, policies,
101 procedures, rules or regulations of the department;

102 (D) Conducting announced or unannounced site visits of correctional
103 facilities administered by the department, without restrictions on such
104 visits, including during periods when a facility is locked down or
105 experiencing a facility-wide emergency, provided the department may
106 restrict access to a portion of a facility in an emergency situation for the
107 duration of the emergency. For the purpose of this subparagraph, a
108 situation or event constituting an emergency shall be determined by the
109 commissioner or the commissioner's designee, to be a situation
110 constituting a significant risk to the safety or security of the facility, or
111 the health, safety or security of department staff or persons who are
112 incarcerated, or an event that significantly compromises the operations
113 of the facility;

114 (E) Reviewing the operation of correctional facilities and
115 nonemergency procedures employed at such facilities. Nonemergency

116 procedures include, but are not limited to, the department's use of force
117 procedures;

118 (F) Recommending procedure and policy revisions to the
119 department;

120 (G) Taking all possible actions, including, but not limited to,
121 conducting programs of public education, undertaking legislative
122 advocacy and making proposals for systemic reform and formal legal
123 action in order to secure and ensure the rights of persons in the custody
124 of the commissioner. The Correction Ombuds is not authorized to
125 institute litigation;

126 (H) Conducting surveys by sending or distributing during facility
127 visits, confidential written and electronic communications or
128 questionnaires to persons who are incarcerated or employees of the
129 Department of Correction concerning conditions of confinement,
130 working conditions or other subjects within the scope of the duties of
131 the Office of the Correction Ombuds, without prior approval of the
132 department. Such persons who are incarcerated or employees shall be
133 permitted to complete and return to said office such surveys either in
134 written format or electronically. No survey may be sent or distributed
135 to an employee of the Department of Correction, unless the Correction
136 Ombuds previously made such survey available for review and
137 comment by the bargaining units representing such employees;

138 (I) Publishing on an Internet web site operated by the Office of the
139 Correction Ombuds a semiannual summary of all ombuds services and
140 activities during the six-month period before such publication; [and]

141 (J) Receiving and reviewing each (i) copy of any report or complaint
142 of a sexual assault transmitted to the Office of the Correction Ombuds
143 pursuant to section 18-81cc, as amended by this act, or (ii) report or
144 complaint of a sexual assault made directly to the Office of the
145 Correction Ombuds; and

146 [(J)] (K) Evaluating the provision of health care services, including,
147 but not limited to, medical care, dental care, mental health care and
148 substance use disorder treatment services, to persons who are
149 incarcerated by the Department of Correction.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	18-81cc
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	18-81qq(a)

Section 1
This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	18-81cc
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	18-81qq(a)

Statement of Purpose:
To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[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.]