

Joint Legislative Corrections Oversight Committee (COC)
 Overview of 2014 Corrections Legislation
 July 22, 2014 Committee Meeting

Act No. and Title	Act Summary	Reports to Committee
Act No. 195, an act relating to pretrial services, risk assessments, and criminal justice programs	This act implements a new approach to pretrial services by adopting risk assessment tools, training criminal justice officials on the tools, and offering pretrial risk assessments, and if appropriate, needs screenings to eligible categories of persons cited or arrested for crimes for the purpose of providing information to the Court and the prosecutor prior to arraignment.	<p>The Administrative Judge and Court Administrator shall present the state-wide plan to the Joint Legislative Corrections Oversight Committee (COC) on or before October 15, 2014.</p> <p>The Department of Corrections, in consultation with the Medication Assisted Treatment for Inmates Work Group created by 2013 Acts and Resolves No. 67, Sec. 11, will develop and implement a one-year demonstration project to pilot the continued use of medication-assisted treatment within Department facilities for detainees and sentenced inmates. The Department shall evaluate the demonstration project and provision of medication-assisted treatment to persons who are incarcerated in Vermont and report their findings, including a proposed schedule of expansion, to the Joint Legislative Corrections Oversight Committee during the 2014 interim and to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions, on Human Services, and on Judiciary and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Judiciary on or before January 1, 2015.</p>
Act. No. 163, an act relating to temporary employees	Directs the Commissioner of Human Resources to determine whether temporary State employees should be able to earn sick leave benefits, and directs the Commissioner of	Directs the Commissioner of Corrections to consult with the COC in developing rules for conducting searches of people entering State correctional facilities, and periodically report to the COC on the implementation of these procedures.

	<p>Corrections to identify the types and amounts of contraband found at State correctional facilities, as well as the methods used to transport contraband into State correctional facilities, including perimeter breaches, mail, and contacts with visitors.</p>	<p>Directs the Commissioner of Corrections to include information about contraband in its monthly interim reports to COC.</p> <p>Directs the Commissioner of Corrections to make recommendations to the COC regarding strategies to prevent contraband from entering correctional facilities by December 1, 2015.</p> <p>On or before October 15, 2014, the Department of Corrections must submit to the COC a report on security and safety concerns at State correctional facilities arising from public or private entities employing offenders through work programs.</p> <p>Directs the Commissioner of Corrections to update the COC on a process for permitting offenders to earn contact visits if the contact privilege was taken away.</p>
<p>Act No. 123, an act relating to the definition of serious functional impairment</p>	<p>Expresses the General Assembly's intent that the "serious functional impairment" designation apply solely to individuals residing in a correctional facility and not to individuals reentering the community after incarceration.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Act No. 156, an act relating to the establishment of transition units at State correctional facilities</p>	<p>Commissioner of Corrections to make recommendations for the establishment of transitional facilities (housing intended to be occupied by offenders granted furloughs to work in the community)</p>	<p>No report to COC, but Commissioner to submit recommendations to House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and Senate Committee on Institutions on or before January 15, 2014.</p>

	under the supervision of the DOC.	
Act No. 168, An act relating to the rights of children of arrested and incarcerated parents	Requires the Secretary of Human Services, the Commissioner of Corrections, and the Commissioner for Children and Families to study and develop recommendations, within the Integrated Family Services Initiative (IFS), to identify and connect children and families of incarcerated individuals to appropriate services, to build and maintain healthy relationships between children and incarcerated parents, including parent-child visits, parenting classes, and supervised visits, and to develop child- and family-centered tools or strategies that can be used throughout the criminal justice system to mitigate unintended consequences on children.	No recommendation or report for COC, but the recommendations shall be submitted to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, Senate Committee on Institutions, House Committee on Human Services, and House Committee on Corrections and Institutions on or before January 15, 2015.
Act No. 179, an act relating to making appropriations for the support of government	Budget bill. Sec. E.337: Community High School of Vermont (CHSV). Directs Commissioner of Corrections to provide report on CHSV to COC, and directs COC to provide recommendations to General Assembly based on this report.	Commissioner of Corrections directed, with the CHSV Board, to report to the COC on current trends relating to the student population at CHSV, including a detailed description of CHSV's programs, curriculum, and outcomes, data on student population, a comparison of current costs per student with statewide averages on education spending per student, and an analysis of the use of more efficient delivery systems, including technology.

	<p>Sec. E.339.1: Windham County Electronic Monitoring Pilot Program. Creates a 2 year electronic monitoring pilot program in Windham County for the purpose of supervising persons under electronic monitoring as a condition of their release, home detention, or home furlough. Goal of the program is to assist policy makers in determining whether electronic monitoring can reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and save bed space for inmates.</p>	<p><u>Action required by COC:</u> Based on this report, the COC shall submit recommendations to the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2015 for a plan to fund programs and curriculum at the CHSV. The recommendations should include whether CHSV may enroll students who are not in custody of the Commissioner and who have not completed secondary education if space is available and no budget increase would be required.</p>
<p>Act No. 201, an act relating to civil forfeiture proceedings in cases of animal cruelty</p>	<p>Clarifies existing law and provides greater detail regarding the rules and process for civil forfeiture proceedings in cases of abused or neglected animals. Requires the Commissioner of Corrections to examine the feasibility of beginning an animal training or adoption program in Vermont.</p>	<p>Commissioner of Corrections shall report his recommendations to COC on or before November 1, 2014 on the feasibility of creating an animal training or adoption program that would permit qualified offenders to care for animals that have been relinquished or seized pursuant to a cruelty or neglect investigation.</p>
<p>Act. No. 110, an act relating to the Defender General's duty to investigate issues related to the health, safety, and welfare of inmates in correctional facilities</p>	<p>Charges Defender General with investigating issues related to health and welfare of inmates in correctional facilities. Issues requiring investigation are, at a minimum: inmate death, suicide attempt or injury requiring >24 hours hospitalization.</p>	<p>The DG shall report to COC "where appropriate" identifying concerns and policy changes arising from investigation of an incident.</p>

	Commissioner of Corrections to report any incidents weekly to the DG, and the DG shall be given access to records for investigation.	
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