

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Corrections and Institutions to which was referred House
3 Bill No. 325 entitled “An act relating to a bill of rights for children of arrested
4 and incarcerated parents” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

8 (a) Children of incarcerated parents have committed no crime, yet they pay
9 a steep penalty. They often forfeit their homes, their safety, their public status
10 and private self-image, and their primary source of comfort and affection.

11 (b) Adverse childhood experiences lead to negative social and health
12 outcomes in adulthood.

13 (c) Children of incarcerated parents are profoundly impacted by decisions
14 made by multiple agencies involved in the criminal justice system, including
15 the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections, the
16 Department for Children and Families, and the Judiciary.

17 (d) The General Assembly and the State have a strong interest in assuring
18 that children of incarcerated parents are provided with the services and support
19 necessary to thrive despite the hardship they face due to their parent’s status.

1 Sec. 2. REPORT

2 (a) The Secretary of Human Services shall study and develop
3 recommendations, within the Integrated Family Services Initiative (IFS), on
4 the following issues:

5 (1) The capacity needed to serve children and their families or
6 caregivers within the Integrated Family Services Initiative.

7 (2) Existing services available to children with incarcerated parents and
8 the need for additional services to:

9 (A) build and maintain healthy relationships between children and
10 incarcerated parents including parent-child visits, parenting classes, and
11 supervised visits;

12 (B) develop child- and family-centered tools or strategies that can be
13 used throughout the criminal justice system to mitigate unintended
14 consequences on children;

15 (C) support children and their families or caregivers by including the
16 use of Family Impact Statements in the Court process.

17 (3) Appropriate physical settings for children to visit incarcerated
18 parents and services while the parent is incarcerated.

19 (4) A mechanism to ensure that coordinated services are provided to
20 children of incarcerated parents by the Department for Children and Families
21 and the Department of Corrections.

1 (5) Agency data systems to track and coordinate services for children of
2 incarcerated parents.

3 (6) The cost of services necessary to implement a comprehensive system
4 of care addressing the unique needs of children of incarcerated parents.

5 (7) How to ensure that, unless deemed inappropriate by a judge, a minor
6 child of an arrested or incarcerated parent is:

7 (A) kept safe and informed about what is happening at the time of the
8 parent’s arrest;

9 (B) is involved when decisions are made about the child;

10 (C) is considered when a decision is made about the parent; and

11 (D) is able to speak with, see and touch the parent.

12 (b) In developing recommendations as revised by this act, the Secretary
13 shall consult with the following agencies:

14 (1) the Department of Corrections;

15 (2) the Department for Children and Families;

16 (3) the Department of Mental Health;

17 (4) the Prisoners’ Rights Office;

18 (5) the LUND Family Center; and

19 (6) the Parent Child Center Network.

20 (c) The Secretary shall consider the Inmate Family Survey Project and its
21 recommendations for best practices.

1 (d) On or before January 15, 2015, the Secretary shall submit a report and
2 recommendations to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, Senate
3 Committee on Institutions, House Committee on Human Services, and House
4 Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

5 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on passage.

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12 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE