

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Corrections and Institutions to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 291 entitled “An act relating to the establishment of transition units at
4 State correctional facilities” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended
6 by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 Sec. 1. TRANSITIONAL FACILITIES; DEPARTMENT OF
9 CORRECTIONS; STUDY

10 (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that there are offenders in the
11 State of Vermont who are eligible for release from State correctional facilities
12 but are not released because no housing has been provided in the community.
13 The General Assembly further finds that it is necessary for the State to explore
14 options for successfully transitioning offenders from State correctional
15 facilities to their home communities. Therefore, it is the intent of the General
16 Assembly that the Department of Corrections develop and coordinate for
17 offenders programming and services that are not provided in State correctional
18 facilities, including employment opportunities, training and transportation, for
19 the transition of offenders to their home communities. It is also the intent of
20 the General Assembly that the Department of Corrections work with affected
21 communities to gain support for these programs and services.

1 (b) Recommendations. The Commissioner of Corrections shall examine
2 and make recommendations for the establishment of transitional facilities
3 under the supervision of the Department of Corrections. The recommendations
4 shall include an evaluation of costs associated with establishing transitional
5 facilities, a detailed budget for funding transitional facilities, an estimate of
6 State capital funding needs, potential site locations, a summary of the
7 programming and services that are currently available to transitioning
8 offenders, proposals for programming and services for transitioning offenders
9 that may be needed, and eligibility guidelines for offenders to reside in
10 transitional facilities, including the number of offenders who would be eligible
11 for residence in a transitional facility.

12 (c) Report. On or before January 15, 2015, the Commissioner of
13 Corrections shall submit the recommendations described in subsection (b) of
14 this section to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the
15 Senate Committee on Institutions.

16 (d) Definitions. As used in this section, “transitional facility” means
17 housing intended to be occupied by offenders granted furloughs pursuant to
18 28 V.S.A. § 808c to work in the community for [X] days or fewer immediately
19 after release from incarceration.

20 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

21 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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3 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE