

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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

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

10 (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that the Department of
11 Corrections has experienced [approximately a three] percent rise in costs
12 annually over the last five years. The General Assembly further finds that
13 there are offenders in the State of Vermont who are eligible for release from
14 State correctional facilities but who are not released due to a lack of suitable
15 housing. The General Assembly further finds that recidivism is reduced and
16 public safety is enhanced when offenders receive supervision as they transition
17 to their home community. Therefore, it is the intent of the General Assembly
18 that the Department of Corrections shall explore the creation of secure
19 transitional facilities so that offenders may return to their home communities.
20 It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the housing in these facilities
21 include programs for employment, training, transportation, and other

1 appropriate services. It is also the intent of the General Assembly that the
2 Department of Corrections work with communities to gain support for these
3 programs and services.

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

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

19 (d) Definitions. As used in this section, “transitional facility” means
20 housing intended to be occupied by offenders granted furloughs to work in the
21 community.

1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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5 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE