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MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Emmons, Chair, House Committee on Corrections and Institutions
From: Rep. Heath, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
Date: May 1, 2014
Subject: Additional Section of Senate Passed Budget to Review

Upon further review it appears that there is one more issue that I would like your committee to review, the Windham County Electronic Monitoring Pilot Program.

Sec. E.339 Corrections – Correctional services –out of state beds

(a) Of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.339 of this act, up to \$202,000 shall be used to fund the Windham County Electronic Monitoring Pilot Program as follows:

(1) up to \$147,200.00 shall be used to reimburse the State's Attorneys and Sheriffs for cost incurred by the WCSO for operation of the Windham County Electronic Monitoring Pilot Project.

(2) up to \$54,800.00 shall be used to reimburse the Joint Fiscal Office for a contract with the Crime Research Group for evaluation of the pilot project.

EXPLANATION: SAC floor amendment; added "up to" 04/29/14

Sec. E.339.1 13 V.S.A. § 7554c is added to read:

§ 7554c. WINDHAM COUNTY ELECTRONIC MONITORING PILOT PROGRAM

(a)(1) The Windham County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) shall establish and manage a two-year electronic monitoring pilot program in Windham County for the purpose of supervising persons ordered to be under electronic monitoring as a condition of release pursuant to section 7554 of this title, to home detention pursuant to section 7554b of this title, and home confinement furlough pursuant to 28 V.S.A. § 808b. The program shall be a part of an integrated community incarceration program and shall provide 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week electronic monitoring with supervision and immediate response.

(2) For purposes of this program:

(A) if electronic monitoring is ordered by the Court pursuant to section 7554 of this title, the Court shall use the criteria in section 7554b for determining whether home detention is appropriate and the person shall be released into the custody of the WCSO;

(B) the seven-day waiting period under 7554b of this title shall not apply; and

(C) for persons who are under the custody of the Department of Corrections pursuant to section 7554b of this title and 28 V.S.A. § 808b, the WCSO shall notify the Department of any violations.

(b) The goal of the pilot program is to assist policymakers in determining whether electronically monitored home detention and home confinement can be utilized for pretrial detention and as a post-adjudication option to reduce recidivism, to improve public safety, and to save valuable bed space for detainees and inmates who should be lodged in a correctional facility. Additional benefits may include reducing transportation costs, increasing detainee access to services, reducing case resolution time and determining if the program can be replicated statewide.

(c) The WCSO shall work with the Crime Research Group (CRG) for design and evaluation assistance. The program shall be evaluated by CRG to determine if the stated goals have been attained, the cost and savings of the program, identifying what goals or objective were not met and if not, what could be changed to meet the goals and objectives to ensure program success. The Joint Fiscal Office shall contract with the CRG to provide design and evaluation services.

(d) The pilot program shall be in effect from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2016.