

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 a rise in costs of \$17, 624,076.00 since FY 2012.
12 The General Assembly further finds that there are offenders in the State of
13 Vermont who are eligible for release from State correctional facilities but who
14 are not released due to a lack of suitable housing. The General Assembly
15 further finds that recidivism is reduced and public safety is enhanced when
16 offenders receive supervision as they transition to their home community.
17 Therefore, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of
18 Corrections shall explore the creation of secure transitional facilities so that
19 offenders may return to their home communities. It is also the intent of the
20 General Assembly that the housing in these facilities include programs for
21 employment, training, transportation, and other appropriate services. It is also

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

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

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

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

21 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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4 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE