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H.469

Introduced by Representatives Colburn of Burlington, Buckholz of Hartford,
Burke of Brattleboro, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown
Springs, Cina of Burlington, Gonzalez of Winooski,
McCullough of Williston, and Weed of Enosburgh

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Corrections; correctional facility; discharge; approved housing

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit

holding an inmate in confinement beyond his or her release date solely for a

lack of appropriate housing.

An act relating to housing for inmates released from a correctional facility

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 28 V.S.A. § 708 is amended to read:

§ 708. DISCHARGE

(a) An inmate shall be released from confinement at the expiration of his or
her term of sentence, less the time deducted for good behavior.

(b) When an inmate is released from a correctional facility, either on parole
or upon final discharge from the custody of the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner,
he or she shall be returned any personal possessions taken from him or her

1 upon his or her commitment, and he or she may be furnished with
2 transportation to the place where he or she will reside, any earnings set aside
3 for him or her in a wage fund or other program or fund, and any additional sum
4 of money as may be prescribed by the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner to enable
5 the inmate to meet his or her immediate needs.

6 (c) If an inmate's release date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, the
7 inmate may be released, at the discretion of the supervising officer, on the next
8 preceding day ~~which~~ that is not a legal holiday or a weekend.

9 (d) An inmate's release from a correctional facility shall not be delayed,
10 either on parole or upon final discharge, due to a lack of approved housing.

11 (e) Notwithstanding subsection (d) of this section, the release from a
12 correctional facility of an inmate who is a sex offender, as defined in 13 V.S.A.
13 § 5401, either on parole or upon final discharge, may be delayed if the housing
14 requirements set forth by the court or the Department of Corrections have not
15 been met.

16 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.