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AND INSTITUTIONS

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MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee

From: House Corrections and Institutions

Date: May 3, 2017

Subject: Study on Substance Abuse Recovery Services at Correctional Facilities

Dear Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee Members:

Pursuant to Sec. 11 of S. 61, "An Act Relating to Offenders with Mental Illness," during the 2017 legislative interim, your Committee has been directed to evaluate approaches to substance abuse recovery services in correctional facilities for inmates, including the use of medication-assisted therapy.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our intent that your study should include a review of the following:

- recovery regimens for inmates, including:
 - screening by a medical and mental health professional upon initial entry into a correctional facility;
 - continuing preexisting prescriptions and medication treatments during an inmate's incarceration;
 - providing supportive and treatment-enhancing activities throughout the inmate's incarceration, including recovery coaching, certified drug and alcohol counseling, and technology-enabled substance abuse recovery programs; and
 - developing relationships with community providers once an inmate approaches release;
- ways to link recovery programs with increased secondary and postsecondary educational opportunities and job skills and training opportunities;
- opportunities to develop and use self-help peer groups to assist in recovery and in maintaining abstinence;
- opportunities for mandatory and voluntary services;

- the estimated number of inmates affected and costs associated with providing recovery services;
- any operational challenges associated with providing recovery services; and
- the feasibility of using classified State employees for delivery of services.

Sincerely,

Representative Alice Emmons, Chair, House Committee on Corrections and Institutions