

1 Sec. 1. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; RACIAL EQUITY;
2 PLAN AND REPORT

3 (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

4 (1) the State’s Department of Corrections is a department within the
5 Agency of Human Services and is not a law enforcement agency.

6 (2) Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 28, the purpose of the Department of
7 Corrections is to develop and administer a rehabilitative correctional program
8 designed, in part, to “render treatment to offenders with the goal of achieving
9 their successful return and participation as citizens of the State and
10 community” and to “foster their human dignity”.

11 (3) The Department of Corrections plays an important role
12 implementing the quality of an individual’s sentence and ability for a
13 successful return and participation in the community?].

14 (b) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to address systemic
15 racism in the State’s correctional program and achieve racial equity for both
16 offenders under the custody of the Commissioner and Department employees.

17 (c) Plan. The Commissioner of Corrections shall develop a plan to address
18 systemic racism in the Department of Corrections and the State’s correctional
19 program with the goal of achieving racial equity.

20 (1) Scope. The scope of the plan shall include the Department’s
21 employment practices and supervision of persons under the custody of the
22 Commissioner in both the incarceration and Department field offices settings.

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1 (2) Evaluation. The plan shall include a timeline and process for
2 evaluating the following:

3 (A) Department hiring practices, training, and continued education of
4 staff;

5 (B) a review of the Department’s directives with a racial equity lens;
6 and

7 (C) a list of stakeholders who will be included in the process.

8 (d) Report. On or before January 15, 2021, the Commissioner of
9 Corrections shall submit a report of the plan described in subsection (c) of this
10 section to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate
11 Committee on Judiciary.

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