

H.876

Representative Cina of Burlington moves that the bill be amended as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 4, Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee review; earned time educational credits, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. JOINT LEGISLATIVE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE;

CORRECTIONS EARNED TIME AND ALLOWANCE; HEALTH CARE EXPANSION; REVIEW

(a) Earned time and earned allowance.

(1) The Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee shall review whether the Department of Corrections' earned time program should permit earned time for educational credits and whether the Department should create an earned allowance program. The Committee's review shall include consideration of the following:

(A) testimony from justice-involved individuals with lived experience in a correctional facility, as well as others who have worked with such individuals;

(B) expanding the earned time program to include offenders and parolees;

(C) examining the current operation and effectiveness of the Department's victim notification system and whether it has the capabilities to handle an expansion of the earned time program; and

(D) creating an earned allowance program for all sentenced and incarcerated individuals, including those on furlough, probation, and parole, that permits such individuals to accrue monetary allowances to use towards the costs associated with victim restitution, educational advancement, health care, housing, occupation, taxes, and any fines.

(2) On or before November 15, 2024, the Committee shall submit any recommendations to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

(b) Mental health and substance use disorder services continuity of care pilot.

(1) The Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee shall review and determine the feasibility of implementing a pilot for the provision of community-based mental health and substance use disorder services to detained or incarcerated individuals and individuals reentering the community.

The Committee's review shall include:

(A) receipt of testimony from the Agency of Human Services, stakeholders providing the perspective of justice-involved individuals with

lived experience of a mental health condition or substance use disorder, community-based housing and services providers, and Department of Corrections' staff and contractors;

(B) an assessment of how community-based services provided pursuant to this pilot would be reimbursed when provided both within and outside a correctional setting;

(C) an assessment of how community-based services provided pursuant to this pilot would be coordinated both within and outside a correctional setting;

(D) an assessment of how community-based services provided pursuant to this pilot would be delivered both within and outside a correctional setting; and

(E) any recommended data collection necessary to measure the success of the pilot.

(2) On or before November 1, 2024, the Committee shall submit any recommendations to the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Judiciary and to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions, on Health Care, and on Human Services.

Second: In Sec. 7, out-of-state correctional facilities; transition; report, in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (4) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (4) to read as follows:

(4) plans to enhance the capabilities of Vermont-based correctional facilities and to employ the use of alternatives to incarceration in anticipation of any changes to Vermont's incarcerative population resulting from the termination of contracts with privately operated, for-profit, or out-of-state correctional facilities; and