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This summary is of a bill that was vetoed by the Governor and may be reconsidered by the General Assembly prior to final adjournment of the 2025–2026 legislative session. This summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly; it provides a general summary of the bill and may not be exhaustive. This summary has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly and is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

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### **H.219 (Vetoed). Corrections; administration of the Department; family support and programming**

This bill would have codified Lund’s Kids-A-Part Program into law with the intent to create gender parity for program implementation at all of Vermont’s correctional facilities.

Sec. 1 of this bill would have expressed the intent that the Department of Correction’s ensure gender parity in the access to services and programs that strengthen family connection, with the further intent to implement what would have been known as the Family Support Program at all Vermont correctional facilities by 2028.

Sec. 2 of the bill would have required the Commissioner of Corrections to include sufficient funding for the Family Support Program codified in 28 V.S.A. § 128 in the Department’s annual proposed budget that is sent to the Governor for the purposes of developing the State budget.

Sec. 3 of the bill would have created 28 V.S.A. § 128, which would have established the Family Support Program to provide free parenting and family support to all incarcerated individuals who are parents and guardians. Specifically, the Family Support Program would have provided (i) increased knowledge and skills for incarcerated parents and guardians to address the needs of their children; (ii) resources to incarcerated parents and guardians to engage in needs-specific family planning and communication; (iii) child-friendly visitation spaces at correctional facilities; (iv) outreach and coordination with appropriate service providers for children and families; (v) improved cross-system coordination to deliver appropriate services to families; and (vi) reentry support and preparation for incarcerated parents and guardians. The Family Support Program would have been contingent on funding from the General Assembly and would have had annual reporting requirements from the Department.

Sec. 4 of the bill would have required that the Family Support Program first be implemented at Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility and Northern State Correctional Facility.

Sec. 6 would have had the bill go into effect on June 1, 2025, but the bill was vetoed by the Governor due to constitutional concerns regarding the budgetary and funding requirements of the bill. After the veto, the General Assembly addressed the Governor’s concerns and similar language to H.219 was incorporated into S.109.

Vetoed by the Governor: May 15, 2025

Effective Date: Not applicable