

SENATE, No. 2380

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 17, 2012

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT M. GORDON

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires residential community release programs to install cameras in certain facilities and provide telephone access to ombudsperson; requires ombudsperson to investigate reports.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning residential community release programs and
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. Every residential community release program facility that
8 is under contract with the State to provide 100 or more beds for
9 inmates shall contain closed circuit security cameras throughout the
10 facility. The cameras shall be used to monitor activity at the
11 facility, but shall not be placed in areas that would violate any
12 privacy rights of the inmates.

13 b. The Commissioner of Corrections shall, in accordance with
14 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
15 et seq.) adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as may be
16 necessary for the implementation of this act.

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18 2. a. Every residential community release program facility
19 shall contain a separate telephone line that provides inmates with
20 direct access to the Corrections Ombudsperson for the purpose of
21 reporting conditions such as fraud and abuse and those that may
22 adversely affect the health or safety of staff or inmates in the
23 facility. The telephone line shall be available to the inmates at all
24 times. An inmate may make the report anonymously.

25 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 28 of P.L.2005,
26 c.155 (C.52:27EE-28), upon receiving a report from an inmate
27 regarding a condition in a residential community release program
28 facility, the Corrections Ombudsperson shall conduct a prompt and
29 thorough investigation. The inmate who reported the condition, if
30 the inmate's identity is known, shall be promptly notified that
31 action is being taken.

32 c. When the investigation is completed, the findings and
33 recommended action shall be prepared in a written report and
34 submitted to the Commissioner of Corrections. A copy of the
35 report shall be provided to the inmate, if the inmate's identity is
36 known.

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38 3. This act shall take effect of the first day of the third month
39 after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill requires residential community release program (RCRP)
45 facilities to install closed circuit security cameras in certain
46 facilities and to provide inmates with direct telephone access to the
47 Corrections Ombudsperson for the purpose of reporting conditions
48 in the facility. In addition, upon receipt of a report, the Corrections

1 Ombudsperson is required to investigate and provide a written
2 report with findings and recommended action.

3 Under the provisions of this bill, the RCRP facilities that are
4 under contract with the State to provide 100 or more beds for
5 inmates are required to have closed circuit security cameras
6 throughout the facility for the purpose of monitoring the inmate's
7 activity. However, the cameras cannot be placed in any area that
8 would violate any privacy rights of the inmates.

9 In addition, this bill requires all RCRP facilities to have a
10 separate telephone line that provides inmates with direct access to
11 the Corrections Ombudsperson for the purpose of reporting any
12 condition in the facility; for example abuse, fraud or any conditions
13 that affect the health or safety of the staff or inmates. The
14 telephone line must be available to the inmates at all times. In
15 addition, the inmates are permitted to make the report anonymously.

16 Lastly, under the provisions of this bill, upon receipt of a report
17 from any inmate, the Corrections Ombudsperson is required to
18 conduct a prompt and thorough investigation. The inmate, if the
19 inmate's identity is known, must be notified that action has been
20 taken. When the investigation is completed, the Corrections
21 Ombudsperson must provide a written report with findings and
22 recommended action to the Commissioner of Corrections. A copy
23 of the report must also be provided to the inmate, if the inmate's
24 identity is known.