

SENATE, No. 2384

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 17, 2012

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT M. GORDON

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOC to report certain information concerning halfway houses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning residential community release programs and
2 supplementing chapter 4 of 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. The Commissioner of Corrections shall report quarterly
8 to the Senate President and the Speaker of the General Assembly in
9 accordance with section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) on the
10 operation of each residential community release program in this
11 State.

12 b. The report required by subsection a. of this section shall
13 include, but not be limited to:

14 (1) the total reimbursement provided;

15 (2) the rate of reimbursement received for each inmate;

16 (3) the number of inmates for which reimbursement was
17 received;

18 (4) the number of inmates imprisoned for violent crimes and the
19 total number of days the inmate was imprisoned;

20 (5) the number of inmates imprisoned for non-violent crimes
21 and the total number of days the inmate was imprisoned;

22 (6) the total number of inmates imprisoned for violent crimes
23 who escaped or absconded and the total number inmates imprisoned
24 for non-violent crimes who escaped or absconded;

25 (7) the actions taken to protect inmates imprisoned for non-
26 violent crimes from inmates imprisoned for violent crimes;

27 (8) the number of documented incidents involving physical
28 violence;

29 (9) the disciplinary actions taken against inmates accused of
30 violent activity; and

31 (10) actions taken to prevent violent behavior from occurring.

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33 2. In addition to the reports required by section 3 of P.L.2009,
34 c.329 (C.30:4-91.15), the Commissioner of Corrections shall
35 analyze the effectiveness of each residential community release
36 program in this State, with a particular emphasis on recidivism rates
37 for each program. The commissioner shall annually report to the
38 Senate President and the Speaker of the General Assembly in
39 accordance with section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) the
40 results of this analysis and make recommendations on how to
41 improve recidivism rates in each program.

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43 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill would require the Commissioner of Corrections to report quarterly to the Senate President and the Speaker of the General Assembly on the operation of residential community release programs in this State. These programs include assessment and treatment centers, halfway houses, and substance abuse treatment programs that assist inmates in transitioning back into society after completing their term of incarceration.

The bill specifically requires these quarterly reports to include information on the total reimbursement provided; the rate of reimbursement received for each inmate; the number of inmates for which reimbursement was received; the number of inmates imprisoned for violent crimes and the total number of days the inmate was imprisoned; the number of inmates imprisoned for non-violent crimes and the total number of days the inmates were imprisoned; the total number of inmates imprisoned for violent crimes who escaped or absconded and the total number inmates imprisoned for non-violent crimes who escaped or absconded; the actions taken to protect inmates imprisoned for non-violent crimes from inmates imprisoned for violent crimes; the number of documented incidents involving physical violence; the disciplinary actions taken against inmates accused of violent activity; and actions taken to prevent violent behavior from occurring.

The bill also would require the commissioner to annually report to the Senate President and the Speaker of the General Assembly on the effectiveness of each residential community release program in this State, with a particular emphasis on recidivism rates for each program.

Current law only requires the Commissioner of Corrections to annually certify residential community release programs as secure and appropriately supervised places of confinement.