

Subject Public Safety COVID-19 Response

Authors Mariani

Analyst Jeff Diebel

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Overview

This bill draft contains a variety of public safety and corrections policy provisions that address COVID-19 related issues.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p>Public access to correctional facility population data.</p> <p>Requires the commissioner of corrections and sheriffs to post daily inmate population numbers for prisons, jails, and juvenile detention centers on publicly accessible websites administered by the agencies.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Correctional institutions; occupancy limits of cells.</p> <p>Repeals language that encourages the commissioner of corrections to double bunk inmates as much as possible in the state's custody level 1 to 4 correctional facilities.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Temporary emergency powers; commissioner of corrections.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Applicability. Limits the duration of the emergency powers granted to the commissioner of corrections. The powers became available upon the governor's declaration of a peacetime emergency to respond to COVID-19. The powers expire when the peacetime emergency expires.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Temporary powers granted; limitations. Grants temporary powers to the commissioner to protect the health and welfare of state correctional employees and inmates. The powers may only be used to prepare for or respond to an outbreak of COVID-19.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Authority to grant early conditional release to certain offenders. Grants the commissioner the authority to release offenders who have 180 days or less in their term of imprisonment, are unlikely to re-offend, and do not present a foreseeable risk to public safety. Provides additional requirements and</p> |

Section	Description
	<p>guidance on applications, appeals, and conformance with existing conditional release provisions.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Inmate communications. Directs the commissioner to grant inmates free external phone calls and video conferences if the commissioner prohibits visitors because of the COVID-19 outbreak and there are funds available to the commissioner to cover the costs of the free communications offered to inmates.</p> <p>Subd. 5. Report. Requires the commissioner to report to the legislature within 180 days of the expiration of the peacetime emergency. The report must describe any emergency powers that were exercised, a timeline about when the powers were exercised, and an explanation for why the powers were necessary.</p>
4	<p>SARS-CoV-2 testing of public safety specialists.</p> <p>Directs health care providers to return SARS-CoV-2 test results to public safety specialists as soon as possible. Defines “public safety specialist,” “health care provider,” and “SARS-CoV-2” for purposes of this section.</p>
5	<p>Local match temporarily suspended for youth intervention program grants.</p> <p>Eliminates the local match requirement for youth intervention program grants made in fiscal years 2020 and 2021.</p>



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