

Subject Public Safety COVID-19 Response

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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 | Public access to correctional facility population data.
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. |
| 2 | Criminal justice data communication network; authorized use.
Expands the permitted use of the criminal justice data communications network to include coroners and medical examiners when they are seeking to identify a deceased person. Current law provides that the criminal justice data communications network can only be used by identified entities to perform specified purposes. (See, HF 3730) |
| 3 | Right to terminate; procedure.
Makes a conforming change. (See, HF 4137) |
| 4 | Harassment crimes.
Defines “family or household members” for the purposes of the subdivision and combines all terms currently defined in the subdivision into a single paragraph. Establishes the mental state of intending to kill, injure, harass, or intimidate another person as an element of the crime of harassment. Establishes a causation element in the crime of harassment requiring that harassing conduct either place another in reasonable fear of substantial bodily harm or cause substantial emotional distress. (See, HF 4137) |

Section	Description
5	<p>Aggravated violations. Makes a conforming change. (See, HF 4137)</p>
6	<p>Crime defined; obscene call. Establishes elements related to the actor’s mental state and the causation of the conduct in the crime of placing repeated phone calls. (See, HF 4137)</p>
7	<p>Misdemeanors. Establishes elements related to the actor’s mental state and the causation of the conduct in the crime of repeatedly mailing another. (See, HF 4137)</p>
8	<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 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>

Section	Description
9	COVID testing of public safety specialists. Directs health care providers to return COVID-19 test results to public safety specialists as soon as possible. Defines “public safety specialist,” “health care provider,” and “COVID-19” for purposes of this section.
10	Repealer. Repeals Minnesota Statutes, section 609.749, subdivisions 1 (Definition) and 1a (No proof of specific intent required). (See, HF 4137)



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