

House Research Act Summary

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Overview

This act makes several changes to Department of Corrections programs and reporting laws.

Section

- 1 **Health care.** Authorizes the Commissioner of Corrections to contract with entities, such as health care management companies, to provide health care to inmates. Provides that the existence of these contracts does not require the companies to be regulated or otherwise treated as health plan companies.
- 2 **Alternative residential programs; funding.** Permits the Commissioner of Corrections to establish alternative residential programs for juveniles to be used by courts and social service agencies as an early intervention in juvenile crime. Requires the Commissioner to charge participating state, federal and local agencies for the cost of the program. Provides that funds received from these agencies will be deposited in the state treasury, credited to a special account, and appropriated to the Commissioner annually to fund the alternative program.
- 3 **Academic program.** Deletes an obsolete statutory reference to the academic program at the Sauk Centre correctional facility.
- 4 **Reports.** Changes the date by which the Commissioner of Corrections must report data on the numbers and types of offenders who enter or leave Minnesota under the Interstate Compact for Supervision of Parolees and Probationers. The reporting date is changed from January 15th to March 15th of each odd-numbered year.
- 5 **Phase II.** Changes a requirement of Phase II of the Department of Corrections' Challenge Incarceration Program. Current law requires offenders in the program to report daily to a day reporting facility designated by the commissioner. This section requires daily reporting, instead, to a challenge incarceration agent or program staff.
- 6 **Reports.** Changes the entity to which a county attorney of a Community Corrections Act county

must report biennially on the operation of the county attorney's pretrial diversion program. Current law requires reporting to the Department of Corrections; this section requires reporting, instead, to the State Court Administrator.

- 7 **Community services.** Clarifies the commissioner of corrections' authority to enter into leases and pay for emergency rental housing for offenders recently released from prison under an existing appropriation.