

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 155

**SESSION:** 2012 Regular Session

**TOPIC:** 2012 Corrections Policy Omnibus Bill

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## Overview

Contains a variety of Department of Corrections policy initiatives. The bill amends the challenge incarceration program criteria, amends the department's biennial reporting requirement, authorizes electronic victim notification, requires prison gardens, and authorizes the department's fugitive apprehension unit to secure search warrants.

- 1** **Biennial report.** Eliminates the Department of Corrections' obligation to report on specific performance measures and targets as part of the department's biennial report to the legislature. The legislature added these reporting requirements to the statute in 2009.
- 2** **Limitations.** Repeals the prohibition against the Department of Correction's Fugitive Apprehension Unit applying for search warrants.
- 3** **Prison gardening program.** Requires the commissioner to establish prison gardening programs in facilities that have secure space for gardening.
- 4** **Challenge incarceration program; generally.** Grants the commissioner discretion on selecting eligible offenders for the Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP). Instructs the commissioner to operate the CIP program as close to capacity as possible.
- 5** **CIP eligibility.** Clarifies the class of offenders who are eligible for the Department of Corrections' boot camp program (CIP).
- 6** **Victim notification of petition and release; right to submit statement.** Authorizes the Commissioner of Corrections to provide electronic notification to victims when offenders who are mentally ill and dangerous are being released/discharged from a secure hospital.
- 7** **Victim notification of petition and release; right to submit statement.** Authorizes the Commissioner of Corrections to provide electronic notification to victims when civilly committed sex offenders are being released/discharged from a secure hospital.
- 8** **Notice of release required.** Authorizes the Commissioner of Corrections to provide electronic

notification to victims when offenders are being released from prison.

- 9        **Contents of notice.** Technical change needed to implement electronic victim notification under section 8.
- 10        Peace officer. Authorizes members of the Fugitive Apprehension Unit to use search warrants as part of their duties by adding members of the unit to the list of peace officers who may request a search warrant from the court.