

**Subject** Ombudsman for mental health services in correctional or detention facilities

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## Overview

This bill establishes an ombudsman for mental health services in correctional or detention facilities. The ombudsman is tasked with promoting “the highest standards for treatment, competency, efficiency, and justice with regard to persons in custody who have mental illnesses.” The ombudsman is empowered with the authority to investigate decisions, acts, and other matters of the Department of Corrections and regional or local corrections or detention facilities licensed or inspected by the commissioner. The bill delineates the specific powers granted to the ombudsman and the scope of appropriate investigations. The bill also provides guidance on ombudsman qualifications, employee selection, access to data, publication of ombudsman recommendations, and annual reports.