



# SENATE BILL 579: Prison Reform Act of 2019.

2019-2020 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	October 9, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Steinburg, McKissick, Sanderson	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Nicholas Giddings Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to Second Edition S579-CSBA-25		

**OVERVIEW:** *The PCS to Senate Bill 579 would direct the Program Evaluation Division to study alternative organization and management structures for the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice.*

**BACKGROUND:** In 2013, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) combined the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Adult Correction into a consolidated division, the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice (DACJJ).

**BILL ANALYSIS:** **Section 1 of the PCS** would direct the Program Evaluation Division (PED) to study alternative organization and management structures for the DACJJ. PED would study the following five alternatives to the current DACJJ:

1. The Department of Correction – a new State department.
2. The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – a new State department.
3. The Division of Correction – an independent agency administratively located in DPS.
4. The Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – an independent agency administratively located in DPS.
5. The Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice – an independent agency administratively located in DPS.

**Section 2 of the PCS** would have the PED study the following aspects of each of the five proposed alternatives to the current DACJJ:

1. Organization, including administration and personnel.
2. Proposed budget of each new department or division.
3. Considerations, such the advantages and disadvantages of each new department or division, including coordination and cooperation between agencies if separated from DPS.
4. Cost of each new department or division.
5. Implementation details such as a plan, proposed legislation, and a timeline.

**Section 3 of the PCS** would require the PED to submit its findings to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee and to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety no later than November 1, 2020.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would be effective when it becomes law.

*Jennifer Bedford, Staff Attorney, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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