



SENATE BILL 579: Prison Reform Act of 2019.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	January 8, 2020
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Jennifer H. Bedford
Analysis of:	S.L. 2019-236		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2019-236 directs the Program Evaluation Division to study alternative organization and management structures for the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, and report findings to the General Assembly no later than November 1, 2020.*

This act became effective November 1, 2019.

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: The act directs the Program Evaluation Division (PED) to study alternative organization and management structures for the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice (DACJJ). PED will 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.

The act also directs Program Evaluation Division (PED) to study the following aspects of each of the five proposed alternatives to the current Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice (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.

The act requires the Program Evaluation Division (PED) to submit 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 became effective November 1, 2019.

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