

ASSEMBLY, No. 5369

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Sponsored by:

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District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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District 37 (Bergen)

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SYNOPSIS

Requires DOC to report certain information concerning halfway houses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/15/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning residential community release programs and
2 supplementing chapter 4 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall report quarterly
8 to the Senate President and the Speaker of the General Assembly in
9 accordance with section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) on the
10 operation of each residential community release program in this
11 State.

12 b. The report required by subsection a. of this section shall
13 include, but not be limited to:

14 (1) the total reimbursement provided;

15 (2) the rate of reimbursement received for each inmate;

16 (3) the number of inmates for which reimbursement was
17 received;

18 (4) the number of inmates imprisoned for violent crimes and the
19 total number of days the inmate was imprisoned;

20 (5) the number of inmates imprisoned for non-violent crimes
21 and the total number of days the inmate was imprisoned;

22 (6) the total number of inmates imprisoned for violent crimes
23 who escaped or absconded and the total number of inmates
24 imprisoned for non-violent crimes who escaped or absconded;

25 (7) the actions taken to protect inmates imprisoned for non-
26 violent crimes from inmates imprisoned for violent crimes;

27 (8) the number of documented incidents involving physical
28 violence;

29 (9) the disciplinary actions taken against inmates accused of
30 violent activity; and

31 (10) the actions taken to prevent violent behavior from
32 occurring.

33

34 2. In addition to the reports required by section 3 of
35 P.L.2009, c.329 (C.30:4-91.15), the Commissioner of Corrections
36 shall analyze the effectiveness of each residential community
37 release program in this State, with a particular emphasis on
38 recidivism rates for each program. The commissioner shall
39 annually report to the Senate President and the Speaker of the
40 General Assembly in accordance with section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
41 (C.52:14-19.1) the results of this analysis and make
42 recommendations on how to improve recidivism rates in each
43 program.

44

45 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would require the Commissioner of Corrections to report quarterly to the Senate President and the Speaker of the General Assembly on the operation of residential community release programs in this State. These programs include assessment and treatment centers, halfway houses, and substance abuse treatment programs that assist inmates in transitioning back into society after completing their term of incarceration.

The bill specifically requires these quarterly reports to include information on the total reimbursement provided; the rate of reimbursement received for each inmate; the number of inmates for which reimbursement was received; the number of inmates imprisoned for violent crimes and the total number of days the inmate was imprisoned; the number of inmates imprisoned for non-violent crimes and the total number of days the inmates were imprisoned; the total number of inmates imprisoned for violent crimes who escaped or absconded and the total number of inmates imprisoned for non-violent crimes who escaped or absconded; the actions taken to protect inmates imprisoned for non-violent crimes from inmates imprisoned for violent crimes; the number of documented incidents involving physical violence; the disciplinary actions taken against inmates accused of violent activity; and the actions taken to prevent violent behavior from occurring.

The bill also would require the commissioner to annually report to the Senate President and the Speaker of the General Assembly on the effectiveness of each residential community release program in this State, with a particular emphasis on recidivism rates for each program.