

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 118

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Supports Assembly Resolution No. 220 adopting articles of impeachment concerning Marcus Hick, Commissioner of DOC.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



SR118 CORRADO

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1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** concerning Marcus Hicks, Commissioner
2 of the Department of Corrections.

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4 **WHEREAS**, The State’s only all-female correctional facility, Edna
5 Mahan Correctional Facility for Women (Edna Mahan) located in
6 Clinton, Hunterdon County, has a long history of inmates being
7 subjected to sexual assault and abuse at the hands of corrections
8 officers and other staff members; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Several corrections officers at the prison have pleaded
10 guilty or been convicted of sexual abuse and misconduct in recent
11 years; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Edna Mahan has been under heightened scrutiny as the
13 United States Department of Justice (DOJ) and the United States
14 Attorney’s Office District of New Jersey (U.S. Attorney) found that
15 corrections officers repeatedly sexually abused female inmates; and

16 **WHEREAS**, The report from the DOJ and the U.S. Attorney, released in
17 April 2020, alleged that there is reasonable cause to believe that the
18 Department of Corrections and officials at Edna Mahan violated
19 inmates’ constitutional rights by failing to protect them; and

20 **WHEREAS**, In addition, the report called sexual abuse at the prison
21 “severe and prevalent,” and said a “culture of acceptance” has
22 persisted for many years; and

23 **WHEREAS**, The DOJ and U.S. Attorney investigation found there is
24 reasonable cause to conclude that women prisoners at Edna Mahan
25 are at substantial risk of sexual abuse by staff because systemic
26 deficiencies discourage prisoners from reporting sexual abuse and
27 allow sexual abuse to occur undetected and undeterred; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Recently, dozens of corrections officers have been placed
29 on paid leave following allegations that on January 11, 2021 staff
30 brutally beat and sexually assaulted inmates; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Inmates have reported to family members and advocates
32 that at least three inmates were injured, including one inmate who
33 was left with a broken eye socket and a transgender inmate who
34 was beaten so badly that she cannot walk and is now in a
35 wheelchair, according to news reports; and

36 **WHEREAS**, A criminal investigation regarding the allegations of
37 violence is being conducted; and

38 **WHEREAS**, As shown by this recent incident, Marcus Hicks,
39 Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, has continued to
40 fail to protect female inmates at Edna Mahan; therefore, this House
41 supports Assembly Resolution No. 220 adopting articles of
42 impeachment concerning Commissioner Hicks; now, therefore,

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44 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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46 1. This House supports Assembly Resolution No. 220 adopting
47 articles of impeachment concerning Marcus Hicks, Commissioner
48 of the Department of Corrections, as there has been a failure by

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1 Commissioner Hicks to protect female inmates at Edna Mahan
2 Correctional Facility for Women.

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4 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
5 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Marcus Hicks,
6 Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, and every member of
7 the General Assembly.

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10 **STATEMENT**

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12 This Senate resolution supports Assembly Resolution No. 220
13 adopting articles of impeachment concerning Marcus Hicks,
14 Commissioner of the Department of Corrections.

15 The State's only all-female correctional facility, Edna Mahan
16 Correctional Facility for Women (Edna Mahan) located in Clinton,
17 Hunterdon County, has a long history of inmates being subjected to
18 sexual assault and abuse at the hands of correctional police officers
19 and other staff members. Several correctional police officers at the
20 prison have pleaded guilty or been convicted of sexual abuse and
21 misconduct in recent years.

22 Edna Mahan has been under heightened scrutiny as the United
23 States Department of Justice and the United States Attorney's
24 Office District of New Jersey found that corrections officers
25 repeatedly sexually abused female inmates. The report from the
26 United States Department of Justice and the United States
27 Attorney's Office District of New Jersey, released in April 2020,
28 alleged that there is reasonable cause to believe that the Department
29 of Corrections and officials at Edna Mahan violated inmates'
30 constitutional rights by failing to protect them.

31 Recently, dozens of correctional police officers have been placed
32 on paid leave following allegations that on January 11, 2021 staff
33 brutally beat and sexually assaulted inmates. Inmates have
34 reported to family members and advocates that at least three
35 inmates were injured, including one inmate who was left with a
36 broken eye socket and a transgender inmate who was beaten so
37 badly that she cannot walk and is now in a wheelchair, according to
38 news reports.

39 As shown by this recent incident, Marcus Hicks, Commissioner
40 of the Department of Corrections, has continued to fail to protect
41 female inmates at Edna Mahan; therefore, this House supports
42 Assembly Resolution No. 220, sponsored by Assemblywomen
43 Stanfield, Vainieri Huttel, and Munoz, adopting articles of
44 impeachment concerning Commissioner Hicks.