

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 487

5 By: Senators Elliott, J. Dismang, Bond, G. Leding, B. Ballinger, T. Garner
6 By: Representatives Gazaway, Glover, Scott, V. Flowers
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT AND AUDIT OF THE
10 CULTURE AND CLIMATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

15 TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT AND AUDIT OF THE
16 CULTURE AND CLIMATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
17 CORRECTION.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Department of
23 Correction – Legislative Council study.

24 (a)(1) The Legislative Council shall conduct a study that includes an
25 assessment and audit of the culture and climate of the Department of
26 Correction.

27 (2) The purpose of the study is to examine and identify areas of
28 potential improvement within the overall functioning of the department and to
29 recommend legislation to the General Assembly for the 2021 Regular Session in
30 order to:

31 (A) Establish best practices for the care and treatment of
32 inmates in the custody of the department; and

33 (B) Improve the operational and administrative functions
34 and efficiencies of the department, including without limitation correctional
35 officer recruitment and retention.

36 (3) In order to achieve the purposes of the study as set forth



1 in subsection (a)(2) of this section, the Legislative Council, through its
2 Charitable, Penal and Correctional Institutions Subcommittee, shall study and
3 consider without limitation the following:

4 (A) Current best practices in place within the department
5 and whether these practices are guiding the operations of the department;

6 (B) Best practices and national norms implemented in other
7 state correction systems, including an examination of where these best
8 practices appear to be working to create successful systems;

9 (C) Treatment of inmates in the department's custody;

10 (D) A qualitative assessment of the experience of
11 corrections officers employed by the department, including pay and benefits;
12 and

13 (E) Training and supervision of department employees.

14 (b) The department shall fully cooperate in the conduct of the study
15 by providing:

16 (1) Access to the Legislative Council, a consultant of the
17 Legislative Council, and the Bureau of Legislative Research to any requested
18 documents and records for purposes of the study; and

19 (2) Timely responses to requests of the Legislative Council, a
20 consultant of the Legislative Council, and the Bureau of Legislative
21 Research.

22 (c) The Legislative Council or the Executive Subcommittee of the
23 Legislative Council may contract with one (1) or more consultants to assist
24 the Legislative Council with the study.

25 (d) On or before December 1, 2020, the Legislative Council shall file
26 with the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker
27 of the House of Representatives a final report of its activities, findings,
28 and recommendations, including recommended legislation, related to the study.

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