

HCS HB 138 -- CORRECTIONS OFFICERS CERTIFICATION (Crawford)

This substitute contains provisions relating to the Department of Corrections. The substitute:

- (1) Establishes the Corrections Officers Certification Commission within the department;
- (2) Allows the commission to cause a job task analysis to be made for corrections officers and jailers, both public and private;
- (3) Authorizes the commission to make recommendations to the department, the General Assembly, and the Governor regarding qualifications, training, testing, and certification of corrections officers and jailers;
- (4) Allows for the appointment of commission members, establishes their qualifications, and sets their terms of service;
- (5) Allows the department director to create various classes of corrections officer certification;
- (6) Contains provisions regarding the confidentiality of personnel records of corrections officers;
- (7) Requires that certain information be provided prior to the delivery of prisoners to correctional centers. The county sheriff must provide a certified copy of the sentence, including specifics on statutes violated, probation, restitution, gang affiliation, and any information about the physical and mental health of the prisoner;
- (8) Allows the department to refuse to accept a prisoner without all the required information;
- (9) Requires all offenders under the age of 17 to be emancipated for the purposes of decision making and participation in all department programs; and
- (10) Provides that hearings for violations of correctional facility rules are not considered contested cases according to administrative procedure and review.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.