

# H.182: An act relating to the creation of the Corrections and Mental Health Study Committee

Representative Brian Cina

February 26, 2019

# Intent of H.182

- Transition corrections system into mental health treatment system
- Improve treatment in the corrections system
- Reframe crime as a public health issue
- Promote mental and physical health and recovery
- Implement restorative practices that shift focus from offender to victim impact and public safety

# Corrections and Mental Health Study Committee

- 1) the Commissioner of Corrections or designee
- 2) the Commissioner of Mental Health or designee
- 3) the Commissioner of Health or designee
- 4) the Secretary of Human Services or designee
- 5) the Deputy Commissioner of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs or designee
- 6) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee
- 7) the Executive Director of Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform or designee
- 8) a representative of the Community Justice Network of Vermont
- 9) a representative of Vermont Psychiatric Survivors
- 10) the Health Care Advocate or designee
- 11) a representative of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services or designee
- 12) a representative of the Department of Corrections' Victim Services Program

# Corrections and Mental Health Study Committee

- Examine existing medical, mental health, and substance use disorder treatments available in State correctional facilities
- Make recommendations for the development of a robust health care system within State correctional facilities that makes available those medical, mental health, and substance use disorder services available in the community
- Consider the social construction of crime, explore the causes of crime, and reframe crime as a public health issue
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current State corrections system, including an inventory of available medical, mental health, and substance use disorder treatments

# Corrections and Mental Health Study Committee

How to reframe the State's response to crime by providing both voluntary and involuntary services, including:

- initial evaluations upon admission for all inmates to identify addictions and any underlying health care issues that may cause substance use disorders, followed by a treatment plan with goals and objectives to guide care and promote recovery during each inmate's time in the facility
- access to consistent health care by trained staff who understand how to use evidence-based treatments
- discharge planning that provides a continuity of care from the State correctional facility to the community

# Corrections and Mental Health Study Committee

How to reframe the State's response to crime by providing both voluntary and involuntary services, including:

- educational and vocational opportunities, including assistance with job placement
- access to universal housing, including transitional housing and supported living options
- opportunities to build savings for the inmate's transition back into the community
- opportunities to develop a restorative plan to make amends for an inmate's past choices

On or before January 15, 2020, the Committee shall submit a written report with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action to the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on Human Services, and the Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Judiciary.

# Corrections system and criminal justice reform

- Norway
- North Dakota

CNN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MauMiCL7G9Y>

Bloomberg: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fb-gOS3p44U>