

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2014**

Bill Number: S. 296 Name of Bill: An Act relating to the Defender General's duty to investigate issues related to the health, safety, and welfare of inmates in correctional facilities

Agency/ Dept: Corrections Author of Bill Review: Monica Weeber

Date of Bill Review: 4/14/2014 Status of Bill: (check one):

☐ Upon Introduction    ☐ As passed by 1<sup>st</sup> body    ☒ As passed by both bodies    ☐ Fiscal

**Recommended Position:**

☐ Support    ☐ Oppose    ☐ Remain Neutral    ☒ Support with modifications identified in #8 below

**Analysis of Bill**

**1. Summary of bill and issue it addresses.** *Describe what the bill is intended to accomplish and why.*

This bill proposes to clarify the Defender General's duty to investigate issues related to the health, safety, and welfare of inmates in correctional facilities and the role of other government, agencies in assisting with this responsibility.

**2. Is there a need for this bill?** *Please explain why or why not.*

The Department of Corrections provides immediate notification of an inmate death to the Defender General. This bill would require the immediate notification of other incidents that could impact the welfare of inmates. The department is not opposed to the notification but propose to send the reports, other than death, on a monthly basis.

The Department has always provided access to the Defender General's Office to investigate incidents. This bill provides more clarity on the process and what the Department should provide during investigations.

**3. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?**

We would expect to see some increase in cost related to providing records to the Defender General.

**4. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?**

None

**5. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it? (for example, public, municipalities, organizations, business, regulated entities, etc)**

None

**6. Other Stakeholders:**

**6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?** Prisoner's Rights Advocates could support the bill as it provides increase scrutiny to the health, welfare and safety of inmates

**6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?**

**7. Rationale for recommendation:** *Justify recommendation stated above.*

**8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill:** *Not meant to rewrite bill, but rather, an opportunity to identify simple modifications that would change recommended position.*

We ask for a modification in the timeframe for reporting critical incidents other than death. We propose a monthly report.