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BILL ANALYSIS



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Senate Bill 945 (as introduced 5-3-16)
Sponsor: Senator Bert Johnson
Committee: Michigan Competitiveness

Date Completed: 5-23-16

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Corrections Code to require the Department of Corrections (DOC) to ensure that prisoners who were approximately 17 to 22 years old were housed only with other prisoners of the same approximate age range, and to provide youth rehabilitation programming at a facility housing those prisoners.

Unless there were specific circumstances preventing the Department from doing so, the DOC would have to do both of the following:

- Ensure that prisoners who were approximately 17 to 22 years old were housed only with other prisoners of the same approximate age range.
- Ensure that prisoners in that approximate age range were housed in the same correctional facilities.

In addition, at a facility housing prisoners who were approximately 17 to 22, the DOC would have to provide programming designed for youth rehabilitation, to the extent that it was able to do so. The Department would have to consult with the administrators of the family division of the circuit courts in Michigan and seek recommendations regarding the selection of programming designed for youth rehabilitation.

"Correctional facility" would mean a facility operated by the DOC, or by a private entity under contract with the DOC, that houses prisoners under the Department's jurisdiction.

The bill would take effect 90 days its enactment.

Proposed MCL 791.262d

Legislative Analyst: Suzanne Lowe

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have a negative fiscal impact on the State and no fiscal impact on local government. The Department of Corrections reports that approximately 3,200 prisoners in the 17- to 22-year-old age range are not currently housed in a facility designated for youths. The Department currently houses prisoners under the age of 18 at the Thumb Correctional Facility. The costs per prisoner at this facility are approximately 15% higher than at comparable adult facilities, primarily due to increased programming and supervision requirements. If it is assumed that also housing all 18- to 22-year-olds in a similar facility would result in the same cost variation, the provisions of the bill would cost approximately \$17.5 million per year.

There could be additional costs due to reorganizing the prison population to accommodate housing these prisoners together. Also, the bill does not specify what programming would be required at these facilities, and if it were more intensive than what is currently offered at the Thumb Correctional Facility, costs would increase.

Fiscal Analyst: Ryan Bergan

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