

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1593

By: Representative Wooldridge

By: Senator Flippo

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTS MADE TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY THE BOARD OF CORRECTIONS, DIVISION OF CORRECTION, AND DIVISION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTION; TO COMBINE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE REPORTS MADE TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY THE BOARD OF CORRECTIONS, DIVISION OF CORRECTION, AND DIVISION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTION; AND TO COMBINE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 12-27-104(h), concerning the report made by the Board of Corrections to the Governor and the General Assembly, is amended to read as follows:

(h)(1) The Board of Corrections shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly ~~a biennial report six (6) months prior to the convening of the regular session~~ an annual report on the work of both the Division of Correction and the Division of Community Correction after each fiscal year.

(2) The portion of the report regarding the Division of Correction shall include:

(A) Statistics and other data;

(B) The income derived by the Division of Correction from



agricultural activities and from prison inmates' activities;

(C) A summary of expenditures of the Division of Correction; and

(D) A progress report regarding internal issues, including without limitation:

(i) Inmate discipline;

(ii) Utilization of programming;

(iii) Facilities and bed space utilization;

(iv) Upkeep issues; and

(v) Construction needs.

(3) The portion of the report regarding the Division of Community Correction shall include the number of persons sentenced or transferred to the Division of Community Correction during the prior fiscal year for each criminal offense classification, including without limitation statistics on the racial makeup of persons sentenced or transferred to the Division of Community Correction for each criminal offense classification.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-27-107(d), concerning the duties of the Director of the Division of Correction, is amended to read as follows:

(d) Subject to the rules, policies, and procedures prescribed by the Board of Corrections, the director shall:

(1) Administer the Division of Correction and supervise the administration of all institutions, facilities, and services under the jurisdiction of the Division of Correction;

(2) Employ such personnel as are required in the administration of the provisions of this act, provided that the employment of personnel shall be in accordance with the applicable laws and personnel rules of the state;

(3) Institute programs for the training and development of personnel within the Division of Correction and have authority to suspend, discharge, or otherwise discipline personnel in accordance with policies prescribed by the Board of Corrections;

~~(4) Make an annual report to the Board of Corrections, which will be forwarded to the Governor and the General Assembly, on the work of the Division of Correction, including statistics and other data, income derived by the Division of Correction from agriculture, livestock, and other~~

~~farming activities and from prison inmates' activities, a summary of expenditures of the Division of Correction, and progress reports regarding internal issues such as inmate discipline, utilization of programming, facilities and bed space utilization, upkeep issues, and construction needs;~~

(5) Cooperate with the Division of Community Correction, the Post-Prison Transfer Board, the Arkansas Sentencing Commission, judicial districts, counties, and municipalities to provide the guidance and services required to ensure a full range of correctional options for the state as a whole; and

~~(6)~~(5)(A) Designate those employees of the Division of Correction who shall have the powers of peace officers in the enforcement of criminal laws to the extent they apply to employees, inmates, and persons on Division of Correction property, while participating in the search and capture of an inmate who has escaped custody, or while assisting law enforcement officers in the search and capture of any fugitive or escapee from another jurisdiction.

(B) The employees so designated have the authority to use blue rotating or flashing emergency lights on Division of Correction vehicles and exercise other law enforcement powers exercised by police and other law enforcement personnel.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 12-27-140 is amended to read as follows:

12-27-140. Division of Community Correction annual report – Quarterly report of position vacancies.

~~(a)(1) On July 31 of each year, the Division of Community Correction shall submit an annual report to the Legislative Council showing the number of persons sentenced or transferred to the division during the fiscal year for each criminal offense classification.~~

~~(2) Persons sentenced or transferred for multiple offenses shall be noted in the report.~~

~~(b) The report shall include a breakdown by race of all persons charged in each criminal offense classification.~~

~~(c)~~(a) The ~~division~~ Division of Community Correction shall cooperate with and upon request make presentations and provide various reports, to the extent the division's budget will allow, to the Legislative Council concerning division policy and criteria on discretionary offender programs

and services.

~~(d)~~(b) The division shall report quarterly to the Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee, the:

- (1) Number of parole or probation officer positions currently vacant in the division;
- (2) Number of parole or probation assistant area manager positions currently vacant in the division;
- (3) Number of parole or probation area manager positions currently vacant in the division; and
- (4) Average case load being assigned to each parole or probation officer.

APPROVED: 3/20/25