

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
92nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2019

As Engrossed: S3/18/19  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 487

By: Senators Elliott, J. Dismang, Bond, G. Leding, B. Ballinger, T. Garner, *Hickey*

By: Representatives Gazaway, Glover, Scott, V. Flowers, *Della Rosa*

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT AND AUDIT OF THE  
CULTURE AND CLIMATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### **Subtitle**

TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT AND AUDIT OF THE  
CULTURE AND CLIMATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTION.

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Department of  
Correction – Legislative Council study.

(a)(1) The Legislative Council shall conduct a study that includes an  
assessment and audit of the culture and climate of the Department of  
Correction.

(2) The purpose of the study is to examine and identify areas of  
potential improvement within the overall functioning of the department and to  
recommend legislation to the General Assembly for the 2021 Regular Session in  
order to:

(A) Establish best practices for the care and treatment of  
inmates in the custody of the department; and

(B) Improve the operational and administrative functions  
and efficiencies of the department, including without limitation correctional  
officer recruitment and retention.

(3) In order to achieve the purposes of the study as set forth



in subsection (a)(2) of this section, the Legislative Council, through its Charitable, Penal and Correctional Institutions Subcommittee, shall study and consider without limitation the following:

(A) Current best practices in place within the department and whether these practices are guiding the operations of the department;

(B) Best practices and national norms implemented in other state correction systems, including an examination of where these best practices appear to be working to create successful systems;

(C) Treatment of inmates in the department's custody;

(D) A qualitative assessment of the experience of corrections officers employed by the department, including pay and benefits; and

(E) Training and supervision of department employees.

(b) The department shall fully cooperate in the conduct of the study by providing:

(1) Access to the Legislative Council, a consultant of the Legislative Council, and the Bureau of Legislative Research to any requested documents and records for purposes of the study; and

(2) Timely responses to requests of the Legislative Council, a consultant of the Legislative Council, and the Bureau of Legislative Research.

(c) The Legislative Council may contract with one (1) or more consultants to assist the Legislative Council with the study.

(d) On or before December 1, 2020, the Legislative Council shall file with the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a final report of its activities, findings, and recommendations, including recommended legislation, related to the study.

*/s/Elliott*