

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1922

## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE COLLINS.

4314H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 217, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the department of corrections oversight committee.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 217, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 217.1020, to read as follows:

**217.1020. 1. There is hereby established the "Department of Corrections Oversight Committee", which shall consist of eight members as follows:**

**(1) Two members of the house of representatives, one from each party, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and the minority floor leader of the house of representatives;**

**(2) Two members of the senate, one from each party, appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate and the minority floor leader of the senate;**

**(3) The director of the department of corrections or his or her designee;**

**(4) One member who shall be a licensed physician;**

**(5) One member who shall be a law or criminal justice professor;**

**(6) One member who shall be an attorney licensed in this state;**

**(7) One member who shall be a member of the clergy; and**

**(8) One member who has been incarcerated with the department of corrections but has been released from department custody for at least seven years, is not on probation, and has not committed any new offense.**

**2. The members of the oversight committee, other than the members from the general assembly, shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 senate. A chair of the oversight committee shall be selected by the members of the  
19 oversight committee. Of the members first appointed to the oversight committee by the  
20 governor, two members shall serve a term of two years, two members shall serve a term  
21 of one year, and thereafter, members shall serve a term of two years. Members shall  
22 continue to serve until their successor is duly appointed and qualified. Any vacancy on  
23 the oversight committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.  
24 Members shall serve on the oversight committee without compensation but may be  
25 reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses from moneys appropriated to the  
26 department of corrections for that purpose. The oversight committee shall:

27 (1) Meet on at least four occasions annually, including at least two before the end  
28 of December of the first year the committee is established. Meetings may be held by  
29 telephone or video conference at the discretion of the committee;

30 (2) Investigate complaints related to incarcerated persons' health, safety,  
31 welfare, and rights;

32 (3) Identify issues within the department of corrections. Such issues may  
33 include, but are not limited to, the following:

34 (a) Sanitation in prison facilities;

35 (b) Access to proper nutrition and a clean and adequate water supply;

36 (c) Livable temperatures in prison facilities;

37 (d) Physical or sexual abuse from fellow inmates;

38 (e) Physical or sexual abuse from department of corrections staff or contractors;

39 (f) Credible threats against an inmate from other inmates, prison staff, or  
40 contractors;

41 (g) Neglect of prison staff or contractors that results in physical or sexual  
42 trauma;

43 (h) Denial of rights afforded to inmates under federal or state law;

44 (i) Access to visitation and communication with family and legal representation;

45 and

46 (j) Any instance in which the oversight committee determines an action or  
47 behavior to be such that it constitutes abuse or neglect against an inmate;

48 (4) Monitor and ensure compliance with relevant statutes, rules, and policies  
49 regarding the treatment of inmates under the jurisdiction of the department of  
50 correction;

51 (5) Collect and analyze data related to complaints received by the department  
52 and data related to the following:

53 (a) Deaths, suicides, and suicide attempts in custody;

54 (b) Physical and sexual assaults in custody;

- 55           (c) Number of people placed in administrative segregation or solitary
- 56 confinement, and duration of stay in confinement;
- 57           (d) Number of facility lock-downs lasting longer than twenty-four hours;
- 58           (e) Number of staff vacancies at each facility;
- 59           (f) Inmate-to-staff ratios at each facility;
- 60           (g) Staff tenure and turnover; and
- 61           (h) Number of in-person visits to inmates that were made and denied at each
- 62 facility; and
- 63           (6) Monitor all decisions of the parole board.
- 64           3. On or before December 31, 2022, and each December thirty-first thereafter,
- 65 the board shall submit to the general assembly a report of its findings and activities.
- 66           4. This section shall expire on December 31, 2027.

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