

As Introduced

**131st General Assembly
Regular Session
2015-2016**

S. B. No. 15

**Senators Uecker, Faber
Cosponsors: Senator LaRose**

A BILL

To enact section 5120.035 of the Revised Code to
require the Department of Rehabilitation and
Correction, by December 15, 2015, to study the
feasibility of converting an existing facility
into a substance abuse recovery prison and to
specify that the General Assembly is to consider
expanding the pilot program for medication-
assisted treatment for drug offenders.

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

Section 1. That section 5120.035 of the Revised Code be
enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 5120.035. (A) Not later than December 15, 2015, the
department of rehabilitation and correction shall study the
feasibility of converting an existing state correctional
facility, another existing facility controlled by the
department, an existing facility owned by the state or a
political subdivision of the state, or an existing facility
owned by a private entity into a substance abuse recovery
prison. The purpose of the prison would be to help reduce
relapses and recidivism while preparing offenders confined in

the prison for reentry into the community. In conducting the 20
study, the department shall do all of the following: 21

(1) Explore all alternatives for providing substance abuse 22
recovery for offenders confined in the prison; 23

(2) Consider drug treatment and rehabilitation services to 24
be provided in the prison to help to prepare offenders confined 25
in the prison for reentry into the community; 26

(3) Consider the categories of offenders that should be 27
confined in the prison, including whether the department should 28
be limited to placing an offender sentenced to or serving a 29
prison term in the prison only if the department knows or has 30
reason to believe that drug usage by the offender was a factor 31
leading to the offense for which the offender was sentenced to 32
the prison term. 33

(B) Upon completion of the study specified in division (A) 34
of this section, the department shall submit copies of the study 35
to the president and minority leader of the senate, the speaker 36
and minority leader of the house of representatives, and the 37
governor. 38

Section 2. The General Assembly shall consider expansion 39
of the five-county pilot project established under Section 40
327.120 of Am. Sub. H.B. 59 of the 130th General Assembly for 41
medication-assisted treatment or other initiatives as 42
alternative means to reduce incarceration and improve 43
rehabilitation for offenders whose drug use was a factor in 44
committing an offense or who are dependent upon opioids, 45
alcohol, or both. 46