

1 H.225

2 Introduced by Representatives Andrews of Rutland City, Batchelor of Derby,
3 Burke of Brattleboro, Clarkson of Woodstock, Courcelle of
4 Rutland City, Fagan of Rutland City, Frank of Underhill, Haas
5 of Rochester, Johnson of South Hero, Lanpher of Vergennes,
6 Lenes of Shelburne, Lorber of Burlington, Martin of Wolcott,
7 McFaun of Barre Town, O'Brien of Richmond, Ram of
8 Burlington, Shaw of Pittsford, Weston of Burlington and
9 Wizowaty of Burlington

10 Referred to Committee on

11 Date:

12 Subject: Corrections; incarcerated parents; videoconferencing

13 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require the department of
14 corrections to create a pilot program designed to facilitate simultaneous video
15 contact between incarcerated parents and their minor children and to report on
16 the feasibility of expanding the program statewide.

17 An act relating to video contact between incarcerated parents and their
18 minor children

19 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

1 Sec. 1. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; VIRTUAL CONTACT
2 BETWEEN INCARCERATED PARENTS AND THEIR MINOR
3 CHILDREN

4 (a) The department of corrections shall develop and implement a pilot
5 program designed to facilitate meaningful contact between incarcerated parents
6 and their minor children through the use of technology such as
7 videoconferencing or web cams that allow simultaneous virtual contact
8 between users.

9 (b) On or before January 15, 2012, the department shall report to the
10 general assembly on the progress of designing and implementing the program.

11 The report shall address:

12 (1) the financial costs of creating a statewide program;

13 (2) the success of the pilot program, including whether the program has
14 increased visitation between incarcerated parents and minor children living
15 more than 50 miles apart;

16 (3) any other matter deemed relevant to the issue of a statewide program
17 promoting virtual contact between incarcerated parents and their minor
18 children.

19 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.