

1 S.130

2 Introduced by Senator Sears

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Corrections; sustainable prisons

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require the department of  
7 corrections to implement a program to train corrections staff and inmates in  
8 sustainable practices; reduce energy usage, water consumption, and waste  
9 disposal at correctional facilities; and provide education and green jobs  
10 training to inmates.

11 An act relating to creating a sustainable prisons pilot program

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

13 Sec. 1. 28 V.S.A. § 123 is added to read:

14 § 123. SUSTAINABLE PRISONS PROGRAM

15 (a) Policy. The general assembly finds and declares that it is in the best  
16 interest of Vermont for the department of corrections, in collaboration with  
17 institutions of higher education, to manage a program to reduce the  
18 environmental, economic, and social cost of prisons by training staff and  
19 inmates in sustainable practices.

1       (b) Definition. For the purpose of this section, “sustainable practices” shall  
2       include conserving energy and water, limiting and recycling waste,  
3       constructing green facilities, and connecting conservation specialists with  
4       inmates.

5       (c) Program. Beginning no later than July 1, 2013, the department of  
6       corrections, in consultation with institutions of higher education, shall  
7       implement a pilot program for the development and implementation of  
8       strategies to decrease the operating costs and environmental impact of  
9       Vermont correctional facilities, train inmates and staff in sustainable practices,  
10       and provide inmates with conservation education and environmental green  
11       collar job training.

12       (d) The commissioner shall submit a plan for the establishment of a  
13       sustainable prisons program to the joint committee on corrections oversight for  
14       review by September 15, 2012 and annually thereafter.

15       (e) At a minimum, a plan submitted under subsection (d) of this section  
16       shall include:

17               (1) A baseline measure of the volume and type of postconsumer waste  
18               discarded by the department of corrections prior to the implementation of the  
19               program and a description of the methods that will be implemented under the  
20               program to reduce annually the amount of waste, including the extent to which  
21               inmates participated in the process.

1           (2) A baseline measure of the average monthly energy and water used  
2 by each facility of the department and a description of the methods that will be  
3 implemented to reduce annually the amount of energy and water used at each  
4 facility.

5           (3) An accounting of all green collar job training that is available to  
6 inmates and a summary of any barriers that exist to providing additional green  
7 collar job training, including necessary revisions to statutory language or  
8 requests for appropriations.

9       Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION

10           The sum of \$25,000.00 is appropriated from the general fund to the  
11 department of corrections for the purpose of funding the program established  
12 under Sec. 1 of this act.

13       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

14           This act shall take effect on passage.