

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	3 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Kruse, Prozanski, Burdick
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Beyer, Walker
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	1/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: States that the primary objective of the Department of Corrections education system is adult basic skills development rather than just functional literacy. Requires the department to test inmates for basic reading and mathematics skills and English language proficiency for individuals with limited English language proficiency, and to run educational programs that would allow inmates to improve their basic educational skills. Encourages inmates to obtain a General Educational Development (GED) certificate. Allows the department to exclude inmates from its educational program for security or health reasons. Abolishes the Corrections Education Advisory Committee. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Balance between prison work and prison education
- The fact that DOC is currently doing many of these activities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Currently, the sole purpose of the Department of Corrections education system is improving the functional literacy of inmates who are not functionally literate. Inmates with less than a year to serve, are sentenced to death, are developmentally disabled, or who have life sentences with no parole, are excluded from the educational system. However, inmates cannot be excluded for health or discipline reasons.