

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 26: Department of Corrections Overtime Usage

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Gorsek

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of a report efforts to reduce overtime usage, with instructions that the Department of Corrections delay submittal of its next report until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Emergency Board, anticipated to be in May 2022.

To alleviate the use of unplanned overtime, the Legislature added \$21.6 million General Fund and 107 new positions to the Department of Corrections' 2021-23 budget, along with a budget note requiring reports to the Legislature during the interim on how the new positions are reducing the use of overtime.

The agency reports that, due to several difficulties with hiring for both corrections officers and health care staff for the state's prisons, the use of overtime grew over the first four months of this biennium, especially as existing staff vacancies have increased. The Subcommittee discussed the many factors that are impeding the agency's hiring efforts and the agency has created a statewide workgroup to look at its recruitment and retention efforts and what can be done to improve on those efforts.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.