

HB 3096 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Amie Fender-Sosa, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/2, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Corrections (DOC) to study specific issues to women in the custody of the DOC. Requires the DOC to report to the Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2021. Effective on the 91st day after sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Prison system has not responded to women in prison appropriately
- Behavioral health needs not met
- Treatment is not trauma informed
- Gender disparities in prison sentences
- Traditional correctional practices structured for men
- Participation in gender-responsive correctional intervention creates greater odds of community success
- Parental responsibilities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Declares that incarcerated women face unique challenges. Directs the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to contract with a third-party organization, to conduct an assessment of the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (Coffee Creek) for the purposes of establishing a baseline for a strategic planning process, policy recommendation and improved protection of those serving sentences in Coffee Creek.

Directs the Governor to designate at least one person as the corrections gender-responsive coordinator (coordinator). Delineates the duties of the coordinator, which include ensuring that those who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated are able to participate in the assessment process, creating a Gender Responsive Advisory Council (the Council) consisting of justice-involved individuals, and reporting to the Legislative Assembly and the Committees related to the judiciary during the 2023 regular session. Requires the Coordinator and the Council to meet at least quarterly to allow the Council to provide input on the assessment and development of trauma-informed practices at Coffee Creek. Defines "culturally responsive," "gender responsive," "listening session" and "trauma informed." Sunsets July 1, 2023. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

-2 Replaces the measure. Makes technical corrections.

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BACKGROUND:

PRELIMINARY