

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Department of Corrections Second Chance Act

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Sollman

On May 19th, the Public Safety Subcommittee recommended approval of the submission of a federal grant application from the Department of Corrections to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance in the amount of \$900,000 for a heavy equipment training and certification pilot program at DOC institutions across the state.

Heavy equipment operators are in high demand in the community and are typically paid from \$25 to \$60 per hour. The pilot program will locate a mobile classroom equipped with virtual heavy equipment simulators at each prison for two to four weeks. Adults in custody will use the simulators for training, assisted by contract training staff, who will also help with certification and who will leverage industry contacts for job placements after adults in custody release from prison.

Grant awards will be announced by October 2021 for a three-year period of performance. There are no match requirements. If successful, the agency may return to the Legislature or Emergency Board to request limited duration position authorization and additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.