

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 16: Department of Corrections Health Services Stabilization

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

The Public Safety Subcommittee heard a request from the Department of Corrections for additional Health Services positions based on an external audit.

In 2024, the Department of Corrections engaged a third party to conduct a system-wide assessment of health care operations based on a whistleblower report and investigation into the operations and clinical care provided by the agency. A report was provided to the agency after the close of the 2025 legislative session that highlighted the need for improved clinical oversight, continuous quality improvement processes, and assistance with scheduling off-site specialty care.

Due to the emergent needs surrounding the off-site care backlog, 18 positions (18.00 FTE) were approved in the 2025 legislative session prior to the final report's publication. The remaining additional nine permanent full-time positions (9.30 FTE) are currently being requested.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend appropriating \$4,055,147 General Fund and establishing nine positions (9.30 FTE) for the Department of Corrections in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2026 legislative session to stabilize medical and mental health services provided to adults in custody.