

By the Committee on Governmental Operations and  
Representative Lacasa

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to a feasibility study  
3           involving corrections; requiring the Office of  
4           Program Policy Analysis and Government  
5           Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct a study on  
6           the feasibility of the Department of  
7           Corrections submitting a bid and operating its  
8           prisons in a manner similar to that provided by  
9           law for private contractors; requiring the  
10          study to be submitted to the presiding officers  
11          of the Legislature; providing an effective  
12          date.

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14           WHEREAS, an inmate's discomfort resulting from austere  
15          imprisonment conditions not only deters the specific  
16          individual from committing further criminal offenses, but also  
17          has a general deterrent effect upon those in society  
18          contemplating similar activities, and

19           WHEREAS, many citizens are often appalled when they  
20          become aware of the comforts that prisoners in prisons enjoy  
21          when many of our citizens can not afford these luxuries, and

22           WHEREAS, the no-frills prison movement in Florida  
23          resulted in the Legislature eliminating or restricting many  
24          diverse inmate privileges, and the ability of correctional  
25          managers in the public prisons to purchase with non-tax  
26          dollars recreation equipment and televisions, and

27           WHEREAS, there is substantial agreement among  
28          corrections experts regarding the legitimacy of eliminating or  
29          restricting free weights and personal clothing and  
30          establishing medical copayments, and there also is

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1 considerable agreement that eliminating all access to  
2 television and recreational opportunities is imprudent, and  
3           WHEREAS, the no-frills prison movement in Florida has  
4 had an unintended consequence of making it more difficult and  
5 costly for prison officials in the public prisons to maintain  
6 security, and  
7           WHEREAS, an ideal prison system should use both  
8 incentives and disincentives to control and change inmate  
9 behavior, and  
10           WHEREAS, the dedicated correctional officers working in  
11 our public prisons deserve to be protected from harm by having  
12 the ability to appropriately punish and reward inmates under  
13 their control, and  
14           WHEREAS, there is a public safety benefit in the  
15 successful rehabilitation and return of deserving inmates back  
16 into society, and  
17           WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to  
18 establish a two-tier correctional system in which both private  
19 and public correctional facilities are given the necessary  
20 management tools to effectively punish and reward inmates,  
21 NOW, THEREFORE,

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23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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25           Section 1. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
26 Government Accountability (OPPAGA) shall study the feasibility  
27 of the Department of Corrections submitting a bid and  
28 operating its prisons in a similar manner as provided by law  
29 in chapter 957, Florida Statutes, for private firms and other  
30 private contractors. The study shall be submitted to the  
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1 Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President  
2 of the Senate by January 1, 1999.

3           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
4 law.

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