By Senator Deutch

30-02562-08

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to correctional officers; amending s. 943.10, F.S.; revising the definition of "correctional officer" to include security personnel employed in secure facilities housing sexually violent predators and institutional security personnel employed in forensic facilities; amending ss. 394.221 and s. 916.1091, F.S., to conform cross-references; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 943.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

943.10 Definitions; ss. 943.085-943.255.--The following words and phrases as used in ss. 943.085-943.255 are defined as follows:

(2) "Correctional officer" means any person who is appointed or employed full time by the state or any political subdivision thereof, or by any private entity contracting which has contracted with the state or political subdivision county, and whose primary responsibility is the supervision, protection, care, custody, and control, or investigation, of inmates within a correctional institution. The term also includes certified correctional officers employed as facility security personnel to operate a secure facility for sexually violent predators pursuant to s. 394.9221 and employed as institutional security personnel to operate a forensic facility pursuant to s. 916.1091(2); however, the term "correctional officer" does not include any secretarial, clerical, or professionally trained personnel.

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Section 2. Section 394.9221, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

394.9221 Certified Security personnel.—The department or \underline{a} private an entity contracting with the department to operate a secure facility under this part is considered an employing agency as that term is defined in s. 943.10 and is authorized to employ certified correctional officers as facility security personnel.

Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 916.1091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

916.1091 Duties, functions, and powers of institutional security personnel.--

(2) The department, the agency, or <u>a private</u> an entity contracting with the department or agency to operate a forensic facility under this chapter is considered an employing agency as that term is defined in s. 943.10 and is authorized to employ certified correctional officers as institutional security personnel. This authority applies retroactively to all certified officers employed in such capacity beginning January 1, 1974.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.