

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Criminal Justice

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BILL: CS/SB 7020, 1st Eng.
INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee and Criminal Justice Committee
SUBJECT: Corrections
DATE: April 27, 2015

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

Amendment 1 – 142575 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

Amendment 1 *removes*: the creation of an independent oversight commission and appropriation of \$1.3 million; the requirement for the DOC secretary to be appointed by the Governor with the concurrence of three members of the Cabinet; the requirement for the Correctional Medical Authority (CMA) to review inmate grievances; the authority for medical staff to use identification numbers when completing incident reports; the prohibition for employees with prior inappropriate use-of-force reports from working closely with mentally ill inmates; the requirement that DOC track and report use-of-force; the requirement for DOC to track health care costs for the elderly; the creation of an inmate welfare trust fund and appropriation of \$5 million; the requirement for the CMA to conduct more frequent medical surveys and the appropriation of almost \$800,000; the requirement for DOC to establish a policy to protect employees from retaliation; the ability for inmates to have outside medical evaluations performed under certain circumstances; the creation of a geriatric release program; and the ability for inmates to be eligible for education gain-time in the amount of 60 days for earning a GED diploma.

Amendment 1 *adds*: the expansion of the DOC regions from 3 to 4 and the appropriation of \$1.5 million; the requirement for the regional staff to review inmate grievances, disciplinary decisions, and maintain a retaliation-free environment; the exemption from career service coverage of all positions in the inspector general’s office and the appropriation of \$180,000; the creation of a body camera pilot program at Union Correctional Institution and the appropriation of \$121,000; the expansion of the conditional release program by changing the eligibility criteria to include a prior sentence in a county jail; the designation of cellular telephones as contraband in a county jail; and the ability for a sentencing court to sentence an offender to a term in county jail for up to 24 months if a contractual agreement is in place and funding is appropriated.

Finally, amendment 1 *modifies* the elements in the newly created 3rd degree felony for withholding food, water, and medical care from an inmate. The amendment removes the element for “culpable negligence” and adds “intent to cause great bodily harm” to the elements of the offense.