

By Senator Farmer

34-01459-18

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to persons authorized to visit state
 3 correctional institutions; amending s. 944.23, F.S.;
 4 authorizing legislators visiting state correctional
 5 institutions to be accompanied by specified persons;
 6 providing an effective date.

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

10 Section 1. Section 944.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 11 read:

12 944.23 Persons authorized to visit state prisons.—

13 (1) The following persons shall be authorized to visit at
 14 their pleasure all state correctional institutions:

15 (a) The Governor.

16 (b) All Cabinet members.

17 (c) Members of the Legislature. A member of the Legislature
 18 may choose to be accompanied on a visit by another elected
 19 official, an ordained minister, or a member of the legislator's
 20 staff.

21 (d) Judges of state courts.

22 (e) State attorneys.

23 (f) Public defenders. ~~and~~

24 (g) Authorized representatives of the commission.

25 (2) No other person not otherwise authorized by law shall
 26 be permitted to enter a state correctional institution except
 27 under such regulations as the department may prescribe.

28 Permission shall not be unreasonably withheld from those who
 29 give sufficient evidence to the department that they are bona

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30 fide reporters or writers.

31 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.