

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 56th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2631
Version:	INT
Request Number:	8562
Author:	Rep. Babinec
Date:	2/28/2018
Impact:	DOC: possible cost savings

Research Analysis

HB 2631 modifies the powers and duties of the Director of the Department of Corrections by removing requirements that appointed wardens have a bachelor's degree and 6 years of professional work experience in corrections. The measure removes the requirement that correctional officers graduate from an approved training course prior to or during the first 6 months of employment. The measure allows the Director to designate certain correctional officers as employees who may carry firearms. The Department is to develop and implement a basic training academy consisting of at least 200 hours of instruction and a firearms course of 20 hours of instruction. The measure also allows the Director to enter into contracts with media or film production companies to allow the Department to authorize a media or film production company to shoot commercial films at penal institutions.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

Fiscal Analysis

The measure will generate an unknown savings to DOC. The agency states that this measure will save the agency ammunition as well as reduce staff workload.

According to DOC:

"Since this will allow us to shift our training, meaning we provide more training to some officers and we can simplify training for other COs, the savings we see from simplifying CO training for some will be used to fund the additional training for those officers who will be deemed correctional peace officers. In short, this will not cost the agency any money. At best, the agency will see a savings."

See other considerations below for more information.

Prepared By: Kristina King

Other Considerations

More information from DOC:

Currently C.L.E.E.T. only certifies people in handguns and no longer does rifles. Training is long and costly under the current setup. Last year DOC paid the NRA \$30,000 to train 30 people. The goal in passing this change to statute and creating a special training at DOC for correctional officers is to provide quality training that is faster and more efficient. DOC will be able to focus on training correctional officers in the skills they will need when carrying a firearm without wasting time or ammunition. The agency can then focus that time and resources

on our CERT teams and fugitive apprehension agents. This will allow DOC to get away from a one size fits all approach to firearms training with the correctional officers. The training can be tailored to the specific job that the correctional officer will hold.

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