

1 SB221
2 209743-1
3 By Senator Chambliss
4 RFD: Judiciary
5 First Read: 10-FEB-21

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the Commissioner of the
9 Department of Corrections may appoint deputy
10 commissioners.

11 This bill would require that one deputy
12 commissioner with the Department of Corrections be
13 assigned as the Deputy Commissioner for Prisoner
14 Rehabilitation and would provide job
15 responsibilities.

16 Under existing law, the Director of Pardons
17 and Paroles has the discretion to appoint
18 employees.

19 This bill would require that one
20 executive-level employee at the Department of
21 Pardons and Paroles be assigned as the Deputy
22 Director for Parolee Rehabilitation and would
23 provide job responsibilities.

24 This bill would establish the Study
25 Commission on Interagency Cooperation and
26 Collaboration on the Rehabilitation and
27 Reintegration of Formerly Incarcerated Individuals.

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2 A BILL
3 TO BE ENTITLED
4 AN ACT
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6 Relating to prisoners and parolees; to amend Section
7 14-1-1.5, Code of Alabama 1975, to require one executive-level
8 employee at the Department of Corrections be the Deputy
9 Commissioner for Prisoner Rehabilitation; relating to pardons
10 and paroles; to require one executive-level employee at the
11 agency responsible for pardons and paroles be assigned as the
12 Deputy Director for Parolee Rehabilitation; to create the
13 Study Commission on Interagency Cooperation and Collaboration
14 on the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Formerly
15 Incarcerated Individuals; to specify the membership of the
16 commission; and to specify the duties of the commission.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

18 Section 1. Section 14-1-1.5, Code of Alabama 1975,
19 is amended to read as follows:

20 "§14-1-1.5.

21 "(a) The commissioner ~~shall have the authority to~~
22 may appoint no more than three deputy commissioners, l who shall
23 serve at his or her pleasure, and ~~to~~ the commissioner shall
24 define their duties. The deputy commissioners shall be ~~persons~~
25 individuals of good character, ~~of~~ with good business,
26 educational, l or administrative experience, shall have no
27 financial interest in any partnership, corporation, l or

1 association with which the department has any financial
2 dealings ~~and,~~ shall devote their full time to their official
3 position, ~~and~~ shall have no other lucrative position while
4 ~~serving as such~~ employed. Their salaries shall be set by the
5 commissioner, ~~but~~ shall not exceed the salary paid the
6 commissioner.

7 "(b) One deputy commissioner shall be known as the
8 Deputy Commissioner for Prisoner Rehabilitation. The Deputy
9 Commissioner for Prisoner Rehabilitation shall be responsible
10 for the development, implementation, and improvement of
11 programs designed to reduce recidivism."

12 Section 2. One executive-level employee at the
13 Department of Pardons and Paroles, or its successor agency,
14 shall be known as the Deputy Director for Parolee
15 Rehabilitation. The Deputy Director for Parolee Rehabilitation
16 shall be responsible for the development, implementation, and
17 improvement of programs designed to reduce recidivism.

18 Section 3. (a) There is established a Study
19 Commission on Interagency Cooperation and Collaboration on the
20 Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Formerly Incarcerated
21 Individuals, which shall consist of all of the following:

22 (1) One member of the House of Representatives,
23 appointed by the Speaker of the House.

24 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
25 President Pro Tempore.

26 (3) The Director of Pardons and Paroles, or his or
27 her designee.

1 (4) The Commissioner of the Department of
2 Corrections, or his or her designee.

3 (5) The Commissioner of the Department of Mental
4 Health, or his or her designee.

5 (6) The Director of the Department of Human
6 Resources, or his or her designee.

7 (7) The Commissioner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency,
8 or his or her designee.

9 (8) The Director of the Alabama Community College
10 System, or his or her designee.

11 (9) The Secretary of the Alabama State Law
12 Enforcement Agency, or his or her designee.

13 (10) The Secretary of the Department of Labor, or
14 his or her designee.

15 (11) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of
16 Veterans Affairs, or his or her designee.

17 (b) The Director of Pardons and Paroles, or his or
18 her designee, shall serve as the chair of the commission. A
19 vice chair shall be designated by a majority vote of the
20 quorum of the membership at its first meeting. A quorum shall
21 consist of a majority of the membership.

22 (c) The membership of the commission shall be
23 inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic,
24 urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state.

25 (d) The commission shall have all of the following
26 duties:

1 (1) Develop and present a strategic plan to make
2 communities safer by reducing recidivism and victimization and
3 assist individuals who return from prison to become productive
4 citizens and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and
5 collateral costs of incarceration.

6 (2) Identify, implement, and promote evidence-based
7 research, policies, strategies, and programming to support
8 successful reentry and reintegration.

9 (3) Promote partnerships and collaboration among
10 state agencies and with local governments and organizations to
11 effectively and cost-efficiently advance reentry and
12 reintegration efforts and eliminate duplication of services.

13 (4) Develop strategies to expand access to
14 educational programs and support programs upon reentry.

15 (5) Develop strategies to assure access to health
16 care coverage and behavioral health services upon reentry.

17 (6) Identify and address unwarranted barriers to
18 successful reentry.

19 (e) (1) The commission shall hold its first meeting
20 no later than June 1, 2021, with the date, time, and location
21 of the meeting to be designated by the Director of Pardons and
22 Paroles, or his or her designee.

23 (2) At the first meeting, the commission shall elect
24 a vice chair, elect other officers as determined by the
25 commission, and set dates, times, and locations of subsequent
26 meetings.

1 (3) The commission shall meet at least monthly and
2 shall report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to
3 the Legislature no later than the fifth legislative day of the
4 2022 Regular Session, whereupon the commission shall stand
5 dissolved and discharged of any further duties and
6 liabilities.

7 (f) The House of Representatives and the Senate
8 shall provide the necessary staff and support to the
9 commission to perform its duties.

10 (g) Members of the commission shall serve without
11 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses in
12 attending meetings of the commission according to policies and
13 procedures of their respective appointing authority or
14 employing agency.

15 (h) Legislative members of the commission shall be
16 entitled to their legislative compensation, per diem, and
17 travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting of the
18 commission, in accordance with Amendment 871 of the
19 Constitution of Alabama of 1901.

20 Section 4. This act shall become effective
21 immediately following its passage and approval by the
22 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.