

Introduced by Senator Vasconcellos

February 22, 2002

An act to add Sections 5067.5 and 5029 to the Penal Code, relating to prisoners.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2002, as introduced, Vasconcellos. Prisoners.

Existing law requires the Director of Corrections to cause each person newly committed to state prison to be examined and studied, as specified.

This bill would require the director to cause each person incarcerated in state prison within 90 days of entry, to be evaluated, as specified, with respect to his or her educational and vocational level of development and capacity and with respect to his or her emotional level of development and ability to lead a constructive life. Based on the evaluations conducted, the bill would require that the inmate be prescribed to a program that addresses his or her level of development so as to better equip him or her to lead a constructive life upon his or her release from prison.

The bill would also require the Department of Corrections to make a parenting education course available for every inmate incarcerated in the state corrections system who is serving a sentence for a crime involving his or her child or a child formerly under their care and would require the department to make these inmates complete this course prior to being eligible for parole.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5067.5 is added to the Penal Code, to
2 read:

3 5067.5. The Director of Corrections shall for each person
4 incarcerated in state prison cause the following:

5 (a) Within 90 days of entry, the inmate shall be evaluated, to the
6 extent practicable, in an open, public, and comprehensive way
7 with respect to his or her educational and vocational level of
8 development and capacity.

9 (b) Within 90 days of entry, the inmate shall be evaluated
10 comprehensively with respect to his or her emotional level of
11 development and ability to lead a constructive life.

12 (c) Based on the evaluations conducted pursuant to
13 subdivisions (a) and (b), the inmate shall be prescribed to a
14 program that addresses his or her level of development so as to
15 better equip him or her to lead a constructive life upon his or her
16 release from prison.

17 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that this program be
18 sufficiently funded and fully implemented so that each inmate is
19 enabled to prepare himself or herself to reenter the community and
20 live constructively and safely.

21 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that this program be
22 annually monitored and assessed by an independent agency, which
23 shall annually report to the Legislature and Governor with respect
24 to the following:

25 (1) How well the program is being operated to live up to its
26 purpose, goals, and mandates.

27 (2) How the program could and should be improved.

28 SEC. 2. Section 5029 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

29 5029. The Department of Corrections shall make a parenting
30 education course available for every inmate incarcerated in the
31 state corrections system who is serving a sentence for a crime
32 involving his or her child or a child formerly under their care and
33 shall require these inmates to complete this course prior to being
34 eligible for parole.

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