

ASSEMBLY, No. 2902

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 1997

By Assemblyman GUSCIORA and Assemblywoman TURNER

1 AN ACT requiring the operators of certain facilities under contract
2 with the Department of Corrections to provide information in
3 certain cases and supplementing chapter 4 of Title 30 of the
4 Revised Statutes.

5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

8

9 1. The chief operating officer, or his designee, of any private
10 facility under contract with the Department of Corrections to provide
11 general custody and care services or specialized residential treatment
12 services for inmates sentenced to the custody of the Commissioner of
13 Corrections shall:

14 a. Notify the law enforcement agency of the municipality wherein
15 the facility is located whenever an inmate escapes from that facility or
16 other such serious security breach occurs. Notification shall be made
17 within one hour of the time the escape or other such security breach
18 is discovered and shall be made in a manner prescribed by the
19 commissioner;

20 b. Prepare and make available on a quarterly basis statistical
21 information relating to escapes, attempted and successful, from the
22 facility. The information shall be made available in a manner
23 prescribed by the commissioner and may include, but not be limited to,
24 publication in a newspaper circulating within the municipality wherein
25 the facility is located. In addition, the information shall be available
26 during regular business hours to residents of the municipality;

27 c. In the case of an escape or other such security breach, and at the
28 same time notice thereof is being given pursuant to subsection a. of
29 this section, disclose all relevant information relating to the escapee's
30 criminal history and background to the local law enforcement agency.

31 As used in this section, "facility" means a residential center which
32 is operated by a private entity, regardless of whether it is organized or
33 incorporated as a for profit or nonprofit entity, pursuant to a contract
34 with the Department of Corrections to provide for the care, custody,
35 subsistence, treatment, education, training or welfare of inmates
36 sentenced to the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6 This bill would require the operators of private prison and treatment
7 facilities who are under contract with the Department of Corrections
8 to provide housing or care for inmates to give notice to the local law
9 enforcement agency whenever one of those inmates escapes. The bill
10 specifies that this notice must be given within one hour of the
11 discovery of the escape. At the same time, the operators are to
12 disclose all relevant information relating to the escapee's criminal
13 history and background to the local police. Finally, the bill mandates
14 that the operators of these facilities prepare and make available on a
15 quarterly basis a statistical report relating to escapes, both attempted
16 and successful. This information is to be published in a newspaper that
17 circulates in the municipality. The information also is to be made
18 available to residents of the community during regular business hours.

19

20

21

22

23 _____
24 Requires operators of private facilities housing inmates under contract
with DOC to notify local police of any escape.