## Florida Senate - 2006

By Senator Wilson

33-23A-06

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**CODING:** Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

**Florida Senate - 2006** 33-23A-06

1 Section 1. Female inmates who are parents of minor 2 children; legislative findings and intent; institutional assignments; data collection .--3 4 (1) The Legislature finds that it is important that each female inmate in the state correctional system maintain 5 6 contact with her minor children through visitation in order to 7 prepare the inmate to be reunited with her family upon 8 release. Although the Department of Corrections may limit the activities of an inmate, the inmate may fulfill parental 9 10 responsibilities through visits and telephone and mail communication with her family. The Legislature also finds that 11 12 the support provided by an inmate's family can be an important 13 resource in combating crime and reducing recidivism. (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that each 14 female inmate be assigned, whenever possible, to a 15 correctional facility that is located within close proximity 16 17 to where the inmate's children reside. 18 (3)(a) The Department of Corrections shall collect information concerning the minor children of female inmates 19 20 committed to the state correctional system. At a minimum, the 21 information must include: 2.2 The number of minor children of each inmate. 1. 23 The date of birth of each minor child. The residential address for each minor child. 2.4 3. The custodial status of each minor child. 25 4. (b) The department shall annually analyze the 26 27 institutional assignments of female inmates to determine 2.8 whether each female inmate who is the parent of a minor child is being housed in an institution that is located within as 29 close proximity as possible to where the minor child resides. 30 The analysis must include mapping and distance calculations. 31

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1 (4) The department need not reassign a female inmate to an institution located in close proximity to where the 2 3 inmate's minor child resides if the court has restricted the 4 inmate's contact with her minor child. 5 Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 944.17, Florida б Statutes, is amended to read: 7 944.17 Commitments and classification; transfers.--8 (7) Pursuant to such regulations as it may provide, 9 the department may transfer prisoners from one institution to 10 another institution in the correctional system and classify and reclassify prisoners as circumstances may require. In 11 12 transferring a female prisoner from one institution to 13 another, the department shall consider, in addition to security and medical considerations, whether the prisoner 14 would benefit from being housed in close proximity to her 15 minor children. 16 17 Section 3. Subsection (7) is added to section 944.24, 18 Florida Statutes, to read: 944.24 Administration of correctional institutions for 19 20 women.--21 (7) Each female inmate who has a minor child shall, whenever possible, be assigned to a correctional facility that 2.2 23 is within close proximity to the child. This subsection does not apply if the court has restricted the inmate's contact 2.4 with her child. 25 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 944.8031, Florida 26 Statutes, is amended to read: 27 2.8 944.8031 Inmate's family visitation; legislative 29 intent; minimum services provided to visitors; budget 30 requests. --31

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

**Florida Senate - 2006** 33-23A-06

1 (1)The Legislature finds that maintaining a female an 2 inmate's relationships with her family, minor children, and 3 the community relationships through enhancing visitor services 4 and programs and increasing the frequency and quality of the visits is an underutilized correctional resource that can 5 б improve an inmate's behavior in the correctional facility and, 7 upon an inmate's release from a correctional facility, will 8 help to reduce recidivism. 9 Section 5. This act shall take effect October 1, 2006. 10 11 12 SENATE SUMMARY 13 Requires the Department of Corrections to collect certain information regarding the children of female inmates in the state correctional system and to determine whether 14 such inmates are in institutions as near to their children as possible. Requires the department to consider a female inmate's proximity to her minor child when 15 transferring the inmate. Requires that female inmates be 16 assigned to correctional facilities within close proximity to their minor children and provides exceptions. Provides legislative findings and intent. 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 2.4 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

SB 1188

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