

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to persons authorized to visit state
 3 correctional institutions; amending s. 944.23, F.S.;
 4 authorizing legislator visiting state correctional
 5 institutions to be accompanied by specified persons;
 6 authorizing legislator to meet with inmate; providing
 7 requirements for such meetings; providing an effective
 8 date.

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 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 12 Section 1. Section 944.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 13 read:

14 944.23 Persons authorized to visit state prisons.—

15 (1) The following persons shall be authorized to visit at
 16 their pleasure all state correctional institutions:

17 (a) The Governor.

18 (b) All Cabinet members.

19 (c) Members of the Legislature. A member of the
 20 Legislature may choose to be accompanied on a visit by another
 21 elected official, an ordained minister, or a member of the
 22 legislator's staff. A legislator shall, when he or she requests,
 23 be allowed to speak to an inmate privately without interference
 24 from the correctional institution's management or staff on the
 25 same basis that an attorney may meet with an inmate client. The

26 | legislator may be allowed to carry one cellular telephone during
27 | such a visit. Reasonable security for the legislator shall be
28 | provided.~~τ~~

29 | (d) Judges of state courts.~~τ~~

30 | (e) State attorneys.~~τ~~

31 | (f) Public defenders.~~τ~~~~and~~

32 | (g) Authorized representatives of the commission.

33 | (2) Persons ~~No other person~~ not otherwise authorized by
34 | law may not ~~shall be permitted to~~ enter a state correctional
35 | institution except under such regulations as the department may
36 | prescribe. Permission shall not be unreasonably withheld from
37 | those who give sufficient evidence to the department that they
38 | are bona fide reporters or writers.

39 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.