

# Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

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## *Bill Summary*

**Bill Number:** S.1651

**Name:** An Act relative to human rights and improved outcomes for incarcerated people

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Creem

**Hearing Date:** 10/15/25

## **Summary:**

This bill would create baseline protections for all people who are incarcerated in Massachusetts correctional facilities. It would require all inmates receive at least six hours out of cell congregate programming at least five times a week. In addition, except during a declared major disorder, all incarcerated people shall be offered at least eight hours out of cell per day with a minimum of one hour per day outdoors. Moreover, this legislation also requires facilities provide inmates the opportunity to access vocational and educational training and work opportunities. Further, it requires all incarcerated people to have the opportunity to create organizations and affinity groups for peer support, peer-led programming, and self-improvement. This bill also creates minimum and maximum heating and cooling levels in correctional facilities to protect people from extreme temperatures. Additional protections included in this legislation include access to medical care, substance use disorder treatment, and mental health care consistent with the community standard of care; access to clean water; access to in-person visitation; and access to library materials. Lastly, this bill requires that correctional facilities provide educational programming that allow incarcerated individuals to complete their high school education and pursue higher education, which would also include specialized programming for 18-25 year olds who have not completed their high school education.

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## *Bill Summary*

**Bill Number:** S.1720

**Name:** An Act to build restorative family and community connection

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Miranda

**Hearing Date:** 10/15/25

## **Summary:**

Proposes significant changes to Section 36C of Chapter 127 of the General Laws of 2022 to improve visitation for incarcerated people in Massachusetts state prisons and county correctional facilities. The bill seeks to establish clear guidelines and limitations on restrictions to visitation, promote family and community connection, and ensure respectful treatment of visitors. The bill also addresses visitation frequency, duration, eligibility, conditions, and related training for correctional staff. The Act prioritizes in-person visitation while also incorporating provisions for video communication.

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## *Bill Summary*

**Bill Number:** S.1722

**Name:** An Act relative to elder and medical parole

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Miranda

**Hearing Date:** 10/15/25

## **Summary:**

Creates parole eligibility for prisoners aged 55 or older who have served half their sentence or 15 years, with considerations for age and health. It also establishes expedited medical parole for terminally ill or incapacitated prisoners and mandates regular assessments. The bill requires bias-free parole decisions and detailed reporting on parole outcomes.

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## *Bill Summary*

**Bill Number:** S.1725

**Name:** An Act creating an independent correctional oversight office to facilitate the recommendations of the Special Legislative Commission on Structural Racism in Correctional Facilities of the Commonwealth

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Miranda

**Hearing Date:** 10/15/25

## **Summary:**

Creates an independent correctional oversight office to facilitate the recommendations of the Special Legislative Commission on Structural Racism in Correctional Facilities of the Commonwealth.

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## *Bill Summary*

**Bill Number:** S.1728

**Name:** An Act to reform parole supervision in the interest of justice

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Miranda

**Hearing Date:** 10/15/25

## **Summary:**

Senate No. 1728 proposes changes to the conditions of parole, emphasizing that they must be reasonably related to the crime of conviction and to not be more restrictive than necessary. It also outlines a new process for addressing alleged parole violations, requiring a summons for initial hearings and setting a higher standard of clear and convincing evidence for sustaining a violation. Finally, the bill introduces provisions for compliance credits to reduce the period of parole supervision and creates a pathway for early termination of parole after three years of law-abiding behavior

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## *Bill Summary*

**Bill Number:** S.1756

**Name:** An Act to repeal pay-to-stay fees

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Payano

**Hearing Date:** 10/15/25

### **Summary:**

This bill prohibits deductions from inmate earnings for room, board, or living expenses and requires the Department of Correction to issue regulations within 30 days of enactment. It applies retroactively to January 1, 2020, requiring refunds for past deductions. The bill also prohibits courts from ordering parents, guardians, or caretakers to pay for the care of delinquent youth and mandates that Juvenile Court immediately cease issuing such payment orders. Any payments made since January 1, 2020, must be voided and refunded. Additionally, the Commonwealth must ensure that incarcerated individuals and their families do not bear the costs of their care and accommodation.