



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 89

February Session, 2026



AN ACT UPDATING PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION STANDARDS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 18-81cc of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 (a) Any executive branch agency of the state or any political
4 subdivision of the state that incarcerates or detains adult or juvenile
5 offenders, including persons detained for immigration violations, shall,
6 within available appropriations, [adopt and] comply with the
7 [applicable standards recommended by the National] standards of the
8 Prison Rape Elimination [Commission] Act, 34 USC 30301 et seq., in
9 effect as of January 1, 2024, for the prevention, detection and monitoring
10 of, and response to, sexual abuse in adult prisons and jails, community
11 correctional centers, juvenile facilities and lockups.

12 (b) Such standards include, but are not limited to:

13 (1) Zero tolerance of sexual abuse;

14 (2) Contracting with other entities for the confinement of inmates or
15 detainees;

16 (3) Inmate or detainee supervision;

- 17 (4) Heightened protection for vulnerable detainees;
- 18 (5) Limits to cross-gender viewing and searches;
- 19 (6) Accommodating inmates or detainees with special needs;
- 20 (7) Hiring and promotion decisions;
- 21 (8) Assessment and use of monitoring technology;
- 22 (9) Evidence protocol and forensic medical examinations;
- 23 (10) Agreements with outside public entities and community service
24 providers;
- 25 (11) Agreements with outside law enforcement agencies;
- 26 (12) Agreements with the prosecuting authority;
- 27 (13) Employee training;
- 28 (14) Volunteer and contractor training;
- 29 (15) Inmate education;
- 30 (16) Detainee, attorney, contractor and inmate worker notification of
31 agency's zero-tolerance policy;
- 32 (17) Specialized training: Investigations;
- 33 (18) Specialized training: Medical and mental health care;
- 34 (19) Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness;
- 35 (20) Use of screening information;
- 36 (21) Inmate or detainee reporting;
- 37 (22) Exhaustion of administrative remedies;
- 38 (23) Inmate access to outside confidential support services or legal

- 39 representation;
- 40 (24) Third-party reporting;
- 41 (25) Staff and facility or agency head reporting duties, including, but
42 not limited to, mandatory transmission to the Office of the Correction
43 Ombuds of a copy of any report or complaint of a sexual assault;
- 44 (26) Reporting to other confinement facilities;
- 45 (27) Staff first responder duties;
- 46 (28) Coordinated response;
- 47 (29) Agency protection against retaliation;
- 48 (30) Duty to investigate;
- 49 (31) Criminal and administrative agency investigations;
- 50 (32) Evidence standard for administrative investigations;
- 51 (33) Disciplinary sanctions for staff;
- 52 (34) Disciplinary sanctions for inmates;
- 53 (35) Referrals for prosecution for detainee-on-detainee sexual abuse;
- 54 (36) Medical and mental health screenings: History of sexual abuse;
- 55 (37) Access to emergency medical and mental health services;
- 56 (38) Ongoing medical and mental health care for sexual abuse victims
57 and abusers;
- 58 (39) Immediate and ongoing access to sexual assault crisis services;
- 59 [(39)] (40) Sexual abuse incident reviews;
- 60 [(40)] (41) Data collection;

61 ~~[(41)]~~ ~~(42)~~ Data review for corrective action;

62 ~~[(42)]~~ ~~(43)~~ Data storage, publication, and destruction; and

63 ~~[(43)]~~ ~~(44)~~ Audits of standards.

64 (c) The agency head of any executive branch agency of the state or the
65 chief elected official or governing legislative body of any political
66 subdivision of the state that incarcerates or detains juvenile offenders
67 shall, annually, not later than January fifteenth, certify its compliance
68 with the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section to the
69 Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division within the Office of Policy
70 and Management.

71 ~~(d) Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the~~
72 ~~Commissioner of Correction shall report, in accordance with the~~
73 ~~provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the~~
74 ~~General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the~~
75 ~~Department of Correction, concerning the following: (1) Training~~
76 ~~provided to department staff concerning compliance with the Prison~~
77 ~~Rape Elimination Act, 34 USC 30301 et seq., in effect as of January 1,~~
78 ~~2024; (2) the number of reports of sexual assault and the types of sexual~~
79 ~~assault reported; and (3) how many of such reports were investigated~~
80 ~~and the outcome of each such investigation.~~

81 ~~(e) The Commissioner of Correction shall, not later than January 1,~~
82 ~~2027, adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54~~
83 ~~to implement the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section.~~

84 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 18-81qq of the 2026 supplement to the
85 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
86 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

87 (a) (1) There is, within the Office of Governmental Accountability
88 established under section 1-300, the Office of the Correction Ombuds for
89 the provision of ombuds services. The Correction Ombuds appointed
90 pursuant to section 18-81jj shall be the head of said office.

91 (2) For purposes of this section, "ombuds services" includes:

92 (A) Evaluating the delivery of services to persons who are
93 incarcerated by the Department of Correction;

94 (B) Reviewing periodically the nonemergency procedures
95 established by the department to carry out the provisions of title 18 and
96 evaluating whether such procedures conflict with the rights of persons
97 who are incarcerated;

98 (C) Receiving communications, including telephone calls and
99 electronic mail from persons who are incarcerated, who shall be
100 permitted to make such telephone or electronic mail communications
101 free of charge, regarding decisions, actions, omissions, policies,
102 procedures, rules or regulations of the department;

103 (D) Conducting announced or unannounced site visits of correctional
104 facilities administered by the department, without restrictions on such
105 visits, including during periods when a facility is locked down or
106 experiencing a facility-wide emergency, provided the department may
107 restrict access to a portion of a facility in an emergency situation for the
108 duration of the emergency. For the purpose of this subparagraph, a
109 situation or event constituting an emergency shall be determined by the
110 commissioner or the commissioner's designee, to be a situation
111 constituting a significant risk to the safety or security of the facility, or
112 the health, safety or security of department staff or persons who are
113 incarcerated, or an event that significantly compromises the operations
114 of the facility;

115 (E) Reviewing the operation of correctional facilities and
116 nonemergency procedures employed at such facilities. Nonemergency
117 procedures include, but are not limited to, the department's use of force
118 procedures;

119 (F) Recommending procedure and policy revisions to the
120 department;

121 (G) Taking all possible actions, including, but not limited to,
122 conducting programs of public education, undertaking legislative
123 advocacy and making proposals for systemic reform and formal legal
124 action in order to secure and ensure the rights of persons in the custody
125 of the commissioner. The Correction Ombuds is not authorized to
126 institute litigation;

127 (H) Conducting surveys by sending or distributing during facility
128 visits, confidential written and electronic communications or
129 questionnaires to persons who are incarcerated or employees of the
130 Department of Correction concerning conditions of confinement,
131 working conditions or other subjects within the scope of the duties of
132 the Office of the Correction Ombuds, without prior approval of the
133 department. Such persons who are incarcerated or employees shall be
134 permitted to complete and return to said office such surveys either in
135 written format or electronically. No survey may be sent or distributed
136 to an employee of the Department of Correction, unless the Correction
137 Ombuds previously made such survey available for review and
138 comment by the bargaining units representing such employees;

139 (I) Publishing on an Internet web site operated by the Office of the
140 Correction Ombuds a semiannual summary of all ombuds services and
141 activities during the six-month period before such publication; [and]

142 (J) Receiving and reviewing each (i) copy of any report or complaint
143 of a sexual assault transmitted to the Office of the Correction Ombuds
144 pursuant to section 18-81cc, as amended by this act, or (ii) report or
145 complaint of a sexual assault made directly to the Office of the
146 Correction Ombuds; and

147 ~~[(J)]~~ (K) Evaluating the provision of health care services, including,
148 but not limited to, medical care, dental care, mental health care and
149 substance use disorder treatment services, to persons who are
150 incarcerated by the Department of Correction.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	18-81cc
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	18-81qq(a)

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*