
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 89

AN ACT UPDATING PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION STANDARDS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the state's executive branch agencies and political subdivisions that incarcerate or detain adult or juvenile offenders to, within available appropriations, comply with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) in effect as of January 1, 2024 (see BACKGROUND). Current law requires them to, within available appropriations, adopt and comply with the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission's recommended standards.

Current law specifies the commission's prison rape elimination standards to prevent, detect, deter, and respond to sexual assault incidents, among other things. Under the bill, these standards are substantially the same with two changes. The bill (1) adds immediate and ongoing access to sexual assault crisis services as a new standard and (2) specifies that staff and facilities or agency heads must transmit a copy of any sexual assault report or complaint to the Office of the Correction Ombuds as part of their reporting duties under the current standards.

The bill also requires the Department of Correction (DOC) commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the PREA standards by January 1, 2027. Starting by that date, the department must also annually report to the Judiciary Committee on (1) training provided to DOC staff on compliance with PREA, (2) the number and types of sexual assaults reported, and (3) the number of reports investigated and their outcomes.

It also expands the services provided by the Office of the Correction Ombuds to include receiving and reviewing sexual assault reports or complaints that are (1) transmitted to the office under the bill's reporting

standard above or (2) made directly to the office.

Lastly, it makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Federal PREA

PREA established a zero-tolerance standard for all acts of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities and created a set of national standards for the detection, prevention, and punishment of such acts in confinement facilities. Among other things, the PREA standards cover inmate safety, staff training, and reporting procedures (34 USC § 30301, et seq.).

Related Bill

sHB 5477, favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee, requires state agencies and political subdivisions to adopt and comply with the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission's standards and revises the application of some of the standards.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (03/23/2026)