

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-sixth Legislature Second Regular Session House: MAPS DP 14-0-0-0

HB 2433: mental health transition program; release Sponsor: Representative Livingston, LD 28 House Engrossed

Overview

Permits early release of inmates into the Mental Health Transition Pilot Program (Pilot Program) under specified circumstances.

<u>History</u>

The Department of Corrections (DOC) operates a Transition Program for eligible inmates, offering up to 90 days of transition services in the community with the goal of reducing recidivism. Eligible inmates must be released from confinement into the Transition Program up to three months earlier than their earliest release date based on risk and need as determined by the Director of DOC; early release does not apply to those determined not to be low risk (<u>Title 31, Chapter 2, Article 6</u>).

In 2021, the Legislature created the Pilot Program to provide inmates, diagnosed as seriously mentally ill, with mental health transition services in the community. Eligible inmates are required to receive services in the program for at least 90 days. Eligible inmates may not be released from confinement before their earliest release date (A.R.S. \S 31-291).

Provisions

- 1. Requires an inmate in the Pilot Program, who has not been convicted of sexual or specified violent crime offences, to be released from confinement up to three months earlier than his earliest release date based on risk and need according to rules adopted by the Director of DOC. (Sec. 1)
- 2. Permits an inmate to participate in the Pilot Program for either at least 90 days or for the duration of his release. (Sec. 1)
- 3. Makes conforming changes. (Sec. 1)