

PROTECT ACT

AN ACT PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE OVERSIGHT, TREATMENT, AND EFFECTIVE CORRECTIONAL TRANSPARENCY

➤ **Stops Extreme Isolation**

PROHIBITS ISOLATED CONFINEMENT (16+ HOURS IN CELL) WITH A FEW, SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONS:

- ▶ DURING FACILITY-WIDE LOCKDOWN DUE TO A SERIOUS INCIDENT.
- ▶ AS AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO A SUBSTANTIATED THREAT OF IMMINENT PHYSICAL HARM TO ANOTHER PERSON.
- ▶ AS AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO AN INCARCERATED PERSON'S REQUEST FOR PROTECTIVE SEGREGATION.

ENSURES MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF ISOLATED CONFINEMENT AND PROHIBITS ALL ISOLATED CONFINEMENT FOR MORE THAN 72 CONSECUTIVE HOURS OR 72 CUMULATIVE HOURS IN A 14-DAY PERIOD.

➤ **Ends Abusive Restraints**

LIMITS USE OF RESTRAINTS TO (1) WHEN TRANSPORTING INCARCERATED PEOPLE BETWEEN UNITS/FACILITIES, (2) AS AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO A SUBSTANTIATED THREAT OF IMMINENT PHYSICAL HARM, OR (3) WHEN SOFT RESTRAINTS ARE NECESSARY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL USE AS PERMITTED BY FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS. AN INCARCERATED PERSON MAY NEVER BE SUBJECTED TO RESTRAINTS FOR LONGER THAN 4 CONSECUTIVE HOURS OR 4 CUMULATIVE HOURS WITHIN A 24-HOUR PERIOD.

➤ **Protects Social Bonds**

GUARANTEES INCARCERATED PEOPLE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF FREE LETTERS, PHONE CALLS, AND VISITS. THE MINIMUMS ARE:

- ▶ 2 SOCIAL LETTERS PER WEEK & 5 LEGAL LETTERS PER MONTH
- ▶ 2 SOCIAL CALLS/60 FREE SOCIAL MINUTES & 2 LEGAL CALLS/60 FREE LEGAL MINUTES
- ▶ 1 60-MINUTE CONTACT SOCIAL VISIT PER WEEK. VISITORS CANNOT BE EXCLUDED BECAUSE THEY ARE OUTSIDE THE INCARCERATED PERSON'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY, OR AS A RESULT OF THEIR CRIMINAL HISTORY.

➤ **Promotes Correctional Officer Wellness**

REQUIRES THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION IMPLEMENT TRAINING AND OTHER STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT STAFF IN MITIGATING TRAUMA AND ITS EFFECTS, SUCH AS BURNOUT, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AGGRESSION, AND SUICIDE.

➤ **Shuts Down Supermax**

CLOSES NORTHERN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION BY DECEMBER 31, 2021.

➤ **Reforms Data Collection**

MANDATES DOC REPORTING ON ISOLATED CONFINEMENT IRRESPECTIVE OF FORMAL RESTRICTIVE STATUS; REQUIRES CUMULATIVE NUMBERS TO ACCURATELY TRACK DOC USE OF PROLONGED ISOLATION.

➤ **Ensures Oversight & Accountability**

CREATES AN OFFICE OF CORRECTIONS OMBUDS, WHICH WILL CONVENE A CORRECTION ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION CHARGED WITH SELECTING AND ADVISING THE OMBUDS. THE OMBUDS WILL RESPOND TO INCARCERATED PEOPLES' CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS, AND HAS THE POWER TO INVESTIGATE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION, ADVOCATE FOR INCARCERATED PEOPLE, AND RECOMMEND SYSTEMIC CHANGE.