

1                                    A bill to be entitled  
 2                    An act relating to a Citizens Collaborative Council;  
 3                    creating s. 944.0232, F.S.; creating a Citizens  
 4                    Collaborative Council within the Department of  
 5                    Corrections; providing for membership and terms;  
 6                    specifying duties and responsibilities concerning  
 7                    adult correctional facilities of the department;  
 8                    prohibiting interference with day-to-day operations of  
 9                    certain facilities; providing purpose; authorizing  
 10                    reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses;  
 11                    providing an effective date.

12  
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 15                    Section 1. Section 944.0232, Florida Statutes, is created  
 16 to read:

17                    944.0232 Citizens Collaborative Council.-

18                    (1) The Citizens Collaborative Council, an advisory  
 19 council as defined in s. 20.03(7), is created adjunct to the  
 20 Department of Corrections. Except as otherwise provided in this  
 21 section, the council shall operate in a manner consistent with  
 22 s. 20.052.

23                    (2)(a) The council shall be composed of the following  
 24 members:

25                    1. Four members appointed by the President of the Senate.

26        2. Four members appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
 27 Senate.

28        3. Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
 29 Representatives.

30        4. Four members appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
 31 House of Representatives.

32        (b) The initial members of the council shall be appointed  
 33 by October 1, 2023. Members shall be appointed for terms of 4  
 34 years each. However, to achieve staggered terms, one member of  
 35 each appointing authority shall be appointed for an initial 2-  
 36 year term. Members must be appointed equally within each region  
 37 of the department. The council's membership shall include, to  
 38 the greatest extent possible, former prisoners, persons who are  
 39 directly impacted by the correctional system, and criminal  
 40 justice or prison reform advocates.

41        (3) The council's primary duties and responsibilities  
 42 include:

43        (a) Regularly conducting unannounced visits to adult  
 44 correctional facilities, including facilities operated by  
 45 private contractors. Council members may enter any correctional  
 46 facility in which prisoners are kept and shall be immediately  
 47 admitted to such facilities upon a member's request and may  
 48 consult and confer with any prisoner. A council member, upon any  
 49 finding of concern, shall immediately contact the warden and the  
 50 two will work together to resolve the concern.

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51 (b) Conducting confidential interviews with administration,  
52 staff, officers, prisoners, prisoners' families and loved ones,  
53 volunteers, and public officials relating to the operations and  
54 conditions of correctional facilities as well as the general  
55 health and welfare of the prisoners.

56 (c) Conducting telephone interviews with prisoners in a  
57 manner similar to that of legal counsel in a private area using  
58 a telephone that is not recorded.

59 (d) Making recommendations to the classification teams,  
60 including recommendations regarding close management,  
61 administrative confinement, and disciplinary hearings.

62 (4) The council may not interfere with the day-to-day  
63 operations of the department or any facilities operated by or on  
64 behalf of the department, but shall serve as a liaison between  
65 administration and staff and prisoners and prisoners' families  
66 and loved ones.

67 (5) Members of the council shall serve without  
68 compensation but may receive reimbursement for per diem and  
69 travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

70 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.