Overview

This bill creates a task force to study the Department of Corrections' current release practices and procedures concerning acutely mentally ill inmates and inmates who are confined in punitive segregation. It requires a report from the task force to the legislature by January 15, 2001.

1 Task force to study prison release practices.

Subd. 1. Establishment of task force. Creates a task force to study the Department of Corrections' current release practices and procedures concerning acutely mentally ill inmates and inmates who are confined in punitive segregation. Requires the task force to address:

- whether to establish a gradual transition process for inmates who are released from punitive segregation confinement into the general prison population;
- whether to establish a gradual transition process for inmates who are released from punitive segregation confinement and are immediately discharged from prison due to sentence expiration;
- if such transition processes are feasible, how to structure and implement them; and
- whether new release procedures are needed to better protect the public when acutely mentally ill inmates are released from prison and, if so, how the procedures should be structured and implemented.

Subd. 2. Membership. Provides that the task force consists of two members of the senate, two members of the house, the commissioner of corrections or designee, an employee of the Department of Corrections with expertise in prison disciplinary matters, an employee of the department with expertise in corrections law, up to three public members with expertise in mental health matters, and the ombudsman for corrections. Provides that the commissioner or the commissioner's designee is the chair of the task force.

Subd. 3. Report. Requires a report from the task force to the chairs of the relevant legislative committees by January 15, 2001.
Subd. 4. Expiration. Provides that the task force expires on March 1, 2001.