

1995 SESSION

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LD1538164

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 234

Offered January 25, 1994

Requesting the Department of Corrections to implement a plan which would expand the use of current alternatives to incarceration for appropriate offenders.

Patrons—Copeland (By Request), Abbitt, Harris, Jones, J.C. and McDonnell

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth currently has a plethora of programs which provide training, treatment and preparation for an offender to enable him to return successfully to society; and

WHEREAS, some of these programs are day oriented, such as work release, treatment and education, while others are located in the community such as community diversion incentive and home/electronic incarceration; and

WHEREAS, prisoners must make a commitment to these programs in terms of time, attitude, behavior, and achievement; and

WHEREAS, without such programs, the correctional program is not adequately rehabilitating those candidates who might benefit; and

WHEREAS, in many instances, the state encourages local correctional facilities to utilize alternative methods of incarceration through their community corrections plan; and

WHEREAS, expansion of these alternative programs could alleviate current overcrowding in facilities and provide additional space for serious offenders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Corrections be encouraged to expand current programs of alternative treatment, education, and release for those appropriate offenders who can be better served in a less restrictive environment than institutional care provides. The Department should give additional attention to the cost savings of alternative programs and the potential for rehabilitation and reducing recidivism.

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