

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6587

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As of February 2, 1998

**Title:** An act relating to a task force on mentally ill offenders.

**Brief Description:** Creating a task force on mentally ill offenders.

**Sponsors:** Senators Long, Hargrove, Zarelli, Thibaudeau, Kohl and Oke.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Human Services & Corrections: 2/3/98.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

**Staff:** Richard Rodger (786-7461)

**Background:** Hundreds of convicted criminal offenders are released into the community each year that pose a substantial danger to the public due to their ongoing mental illness. The release of these offenders presents a significant risk to people's lives, health, and safety, absent effective long-term monitoring, control, and treatment.

**Summary of Bill:** A task force is created to examine issues regarding mentally ill persons convicted of a criminal offense who pose a serious risk to public safety. The task force must examine issues such as:

- (a) identification of persons convicted of crimes who, due to their mental illness pose a serious threat to public safety;
- (b) mental health services provided to persons confined in a correctional facility;
- (c) appropriate methods of assuring security and apprehension of dangerous mentally ill offenders who present an immediate threat to public safety or who may be in violation of conditions imposed on them by the court;
- (d) how to improve coordination of services by the Departments of Corrections and Social and Health Services; and
- (e) examining methods of providing civil law controls of dangerous, mentally ill persons.

The task force must begin its deliberations no later than May 1, 1998. The final report and recommendations are due no later than December 1, 1998.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.