
Public Safety Committee

HB 1943

Brief Description: Concerning home detention.

Sponsors: Representatives Shea, Goodman, McCaslin and Scott.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Redefines home detention to require presence in a private residence 24 hours a day, unless otherwise authorized by the court.
- Prohibits the use of home detention for those offenders who have a prior history of violations of the terms of a home detention program.
- Requires monitoring agencies to notify certain agencies of violations of home detention, verify monitored individuals' locations on a regular basis, have policies for contingency plans and conflicts of interest, and meet background check requirements.
- Subjects monitoring agencies to civil penalties for non-compliance with the act.
- Requires the courts to notify the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) when discontinuing or resuming use of a monitoring agency and requires the AOC to transmit this notice to courts statewide.
- Requires the AOC to develop a pattern order for courts to use when ordering home detention.
- Prohibits use of pre-trial home detention for offenders who have a prior conviction for a violent, sex, or escape offense.
- Requires posting of bail prior to pre-trial release to home detention.
- Prohibits an award of credit toward a sentence for time spent in pre-trial home detention if an offender is convicted of certain offenses.
- Provides that a person who knowingly violates the terms of home detention is guilty of Escape in the third degree.

Hearing Date: 2/17/15

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff: Cassie Jones (786-7303).

Background:

An offender may be ordered by a court, as an alternative to incarceration, to home detention. Home detention is a program of partial confinement available to an offender wherein the offender is confined in a private residence subject to electronic surveillance. Alternatively, an offender may be ordered by the Department of Corrections (DOC) to home detention, as part of the DOC's parenting program.

Offenders convicted of certain crimes are ineligible for home detention unless imposed as partial confinement under the DOC's parenting program: a violent offense, a sex offense, a drug offense, Reckless Burning in the first or second degree, Assault in the third degree, Assault of a Child in the third degree, Unlawful Imprisonment, or Harassment. Offenders convicted of Burglary, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Forged Prescription of a Controlled Substance, or taking a Motor Vehicle are eligible for home detention if they meet certain criteria.

Participation in a home detention program is conditioned upon the offender: (1) obtaining and maintaining employment; attending a course of study at regular hours or performing parental duties to children normally in his or her custody; (2) abiding by the rules of the home detention program; and (3) compliance with court-ordered legal financial obligations.

Court Requirements and Pre-trial Release. When a person charged with an offense appears before a judicial officer, the judicial officer must issue an order that, pending trial, the person be released on recognizance, released on conditions, or remain detained. The court's order for conditional release may include the following conditions:

- placing a defendant on a pre-trial release program;
- restricting travel, association, or place of abode;
- requiring compliance with a curfew, work release, or electronic monitoring;
- prohibiting contact with particular persons or places;
- prohibiting possession of dangerous weapons or firearms;
- prohibiting consumption of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs;
- prohibiting operation of a motor vehicle not equipped with ignition interlock;
- reporting regularly to court supervision; and
- prohibiting violations of the criminal law.

Escape in the Third Degree. A person commits the crime Escape in the third degree when the person escapes from custody. Custody means restraint pursuant to a lawful arrest or an order of a court, or any period on a work crew. Escape in the third degree is a gross misdemeanor, punishable but up to 364 days in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

A misdemeanor is punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine, and a class C felony is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Summary of Bill:

Home detention is defined as as program of partial confinement available to offenders wherein the offender is confined in a private residence 24 hours a day, unless an absence from the

residence is included in the order by the court that ordered home detention, and the offender is subject to electronic surveillance that determines the monitored individual's presence at an approved location through either signaling or satellite monitoring. Home detention may not be imposed for an offender if the sentencing court finds that the offender has previously violated the terms of a home detention program.

Monitoring Agency Requirements. Home detention programs must be administered by a monitoring agency that meets the following requirements:

- provides notification within 24 hours to law enforcement, the court, probation, the prosecuting attorney, and if applicable, the DOC or the local detention facility when a monitored individual is unaccounted for, or beyond an approved location for 24 consecutive hours;
- provides weekly notification to law enforcement, the prosecuting attorney, probation, and if applicable, the DOC or the local detention facility of any violations of the court order or terms of the home detention program;
- verifies and documents the monitored individuals attendance at court ordered activities;
- verifies the location of the offender through in-person contact at least once per week, and on a random basis at least once per month;
- ensures compliance with any other conditions ordered by the court and required by law;
- has a detailed contingency plan for events such as power outages, malfunction of equipment, fires, and floods;
- prohibits conflicts of interest between employees and monitored individuals;
- is not owned by, nor employs, any person convicted of a felony within the past four years; and
- obtains background checks for every owner and employee.

A monitoring agency that fails to comply with the requirements may be subject to a \$1,000 fine per violation, as determined by a court. Monitoring agencies include any entity, public or private, which supervises a monitored offender pursuant to a home detention program.

Court Requirements and Pre-trial Release. A court that received notice of a violation of the terms of a home detention program must maintain a record of violations in the court file. If a court decides to discontinue or resume use of a monitoring agency, the court must notify the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), which must then notify all superior and district courts of the decision. The AOC is required to create a pattern form order for the court to use when ordering a person to comply with a home detention program.

The court may impose compliance with a home detention program as a condition of release. However, the court may not order home detention for a pre-trial defendant if the defendant has a prior conviction for a violent or sex offense or a prior conviction for escape in the first, second, or third degree. No defendants may be released to home detention unless release is secured with payment of bail.

A sentencing court may not give credit for time an offender spent in a home detention program prior to sentencing if the offender was ultimately convicted for one of the following offenses:

- a violent offense;
- any sex offense;
- any drug offense;

- Reckless burning in the first or second degree;
- Assault in the third degree;
- Assault of a Child in the third degree;
- Unlawful Imprisonment; or
- Harassment.

Escape in the Third Degree. A person is guilty of Escape in the third degree if he or she escapes from custody or knowingly violates the terms of a home detention program. Escape in the third degree is a misdemeanor on the first offense, a gross misdemeanor on the second offense, and a class C felony on the third or subsequent offense.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.