

HB 1220 -- Children's Access to Incarcerated Mothers

Sponsor: Hubbard

Beginning January 1, 2013, this bill requires the Department of Corrections, in cooperation with the Division of Family Services within the Department of Social Services, to establish a two-year pilot project to increase the access that children have to their incarcerated mothers. The project must cover the Chillicothe Correctional Center and the Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center which house women. The department and the division must collaborate to develop and implement the project by providing transportation for visits once a month or any other means available to increase visitation between children and incarcerated mothers who still have parental rights. Transportation for the caretakers of children must also be provided and the caretakers are required to attend the visitations. The project must focus on, but cannot be limited to, children who live 50 miles or more from the facility where the mother is located. Funding for the project must come from existing appropriations or any funds specifically appropriated for the project. At the end of the two-year pilot project, the department and division directors must submit a joint report to the Governor and the General Assembly by February 1, 2016, on the efficacy of the project on both children and incarcerated mothers as well as the project cost and make recommendations on whether to expand the project and of any needed changes.