

# Mississippi's House Corrections Committee Accomplishes Little

Much like the Senate Corrections Committee, Mississippi's House of Representatives' Corrections Committee managed to accomplish very little during the 2018 legislative session. Republicans hold a 10-7 majority over democrats on the committee.

Of the seven democrats on the committee, only two introduced corrections-related legislation. Of the ten republicans on the committee, only two introduced corrections-related legislation. Apparently only four of the seventeen committee members had any interest in corrections this year.

Eight democrats and six republicans who do not serve on the corrections committee introduced legislation that wound up in the committee.

A total of 59 bills were before the House Corrections Committee this session. Forty-six (46) of those bills died in committee on January 30, 2018. Ten (10) bills were transmitted to the Senate; of those ten, four were nothing more than extensions of repeal dates on current statutes. The other six bills transmitted to the Senate - all of which were introduced by the republican chairman of the committee - either loosen mandates on facilities (HB 1172 and HB 1139) or are "crackdown" type bills (HB 61, HB 1142, HB 1143). The three remaining bills - all also introduced by the republican chairman of the committee - are also "crackdown" type bills (HB 59, HB 1124, HB 1126), including one that seeks to make it a felony for a civilian to receive calls from a contraband cellphone. All three of those bills were amended and passed.

I have no problem with legislation that will enhance security and reduce contraband in prisons. But the largest conduit for contraband is and always has been corrupt prison staff; and every bill that would have addressed this reality died in committee (HB 524, HB 1125).

The truth is that Mississippi's House Corrections Committee has wasted another session, another year, and another opportunity to bring needed reforms to the state's prison system.

Take a look for yourself:



# Mississippi Legislature 2018 Regular Session

## House Corrections Committee

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<a href="#">HB 55</a>	Amount paid to regional correctional facilities by Department of Corrections; increase to \$41.00 per day. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">Clark</a>
<a href="#">HB 56</a>	Nonviolent offenders convicted on or after July 1, 2014; make eligible for parole without parole hearing if certain conditions met. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">Kinkade</a>
<a href="#">HB 57</a>	MS Prison Industries Corporation; may utilize county or municipal inmate labor under certain circumstances. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">Denny</a>
<a href="#">HB 58</a>	Case plans for parole-eligible inmates; require for nonviolent inmates convicted on or after July 1, 2014. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">Kinkade</a>
<a href="#">HB 59</a> *	Offenders convicted of a crime of violence; strike reference that such offenders are eligible for parole. <a href="#">02/07 (H) Passed As Amended</a>	<a href="#">Kinkade</a>
<a href="#">HB 60</a>	Emergency leave for certain offenders due to death/sickness in family; revise security escort requirement. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">Kinkade</a>
<a href="#">HB 61</a>	DOC; authorize to transfer disruptive technical violation center offender to general population under certain circumstances. <a href="#">02/07 (H) Transmitted To Senate</a>	<a href="#">Kinkade</a>
<a href="#">HB 97</a>	Conjugal visits; prohibit for offenders committed to the custody of the Department of Corrections. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">Shirley</a>
<a href="#">HB 113</a>	Offender serving sentence in technical violation center for violation report; require sentence to run concurrently for each violation. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">Hines</a>
<a href="#">HB 232</a>	State inmate eligible for release, certain; require to receive certain notification regarding searches after inmate is released. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">DeLano</a>
<a href="#">HB 308</a>	Joint state-county work program; require DOC to utilize under certain circumstances. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">Clark</a>
<a href="#">HB 439</a>	RFP for administration of inmate canteen services; require certain standards for pricing of canteen items. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">Scott</a>
<a href="#">HB 463</a>	Food, toiletry items and undergarments sent to inmates; prohibit ban of by Department of Corrections if subjected to a search. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">Scott</a>
<a href="#">HB 471</a>	Task force to address the disparity of African-American males in the judicial system; create. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">Scott</a>
<a href="#">HB 484</a>	Department of Corrections; provide certain educational programs for adult offenders. <a href="#">01/30 (H) Died In Committee</a>	<a href="#">Scott</a>



<u>HB 513</u>	Inmate collect phone calls; require rates to be set at a certain flat rate. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Scott</u>
<u>HB 515</u>	Nonviolent offenders; authorize reduction of sentences for passage of end-of-course subject area tests by the offenders. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Scott</u>
<u>HB 524</u>	Possession of cell phones and contraband by incarcerated offenders and correctional employees; provide enhanced penalty for. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Bell (21st)</u>
<u>HB 613</u>	DOC's evaluation of requests for proposals for canteen services; require interested third parties to have reasonable prices for services. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 614</u>	Inmates convicted of capital offenses; provide parole eligibility after certain requirements are met. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 625</u>	Department of Corrections; require to provide certain notice to certain city before offender is released. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 637</u>	Mandatory minimum sentences for crimes committed by offenders; revise which offenders are eligible for. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 638</u>	Violent offenders, certain; may be paroled by Parole Board if sentencing judge authorizes parole consideration. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 640</u>	Earned time allowance; revise which offenders are eligible for. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 641</u>	Corrections; authorize to administer the "Halfway House Grant Program." <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 642</u>	Mississippi Prison Industries; require to pay inmates federal minimum wage for inmate labor. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 643</u>	Case plans for inmates who committed violent offenses; require certain programs be placed within. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 644</u>	Case plans for inmates who committed capital offenses; require certain programs be placed within. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 645</u>	Conjugal visits; require Department of Corrections to provide for married inmates. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 646</u>	Department of Corrections; require implementation of an Extended Family Visitation Program for eligible offenders. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 653</u>	Case plans for nonviolent inmates; require certain programs be placed within. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Banks</u>
<u>HB 723</u>	Trusty status and earned time allowances; revise eligibility criteria for offenders. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Horan</u>
<u>HB 800</u>	Earned-release supervision; require Parole Board to approve before offender is released on. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Gipson</u>
<u>HB 816</u>	Parole Board; revise notification time frame given to victim when the offender is to be released by the board. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Williams-Barnes</u>
<u>HB 818</u>	Department of Corrections; revise notification time frame given to certain local law enforcement when an offender is to be released from custody of. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Williams-Barnes</u>
<u>HB 868</u>	Private correctional facilities contractor; must have ability to use local vendors when	<u>Faulkner</u>



	providing services to offenders. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	
<u>HB 877</u>	Prison Overcrowding Emergency Powers Act; extend repealer on. <u>02/02 (H) Transmitted To Senate</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>HB 879</u> %	Corrections; extend repealer on intensive supervision program and electronic home detention. <u>02/02 (H) Transmitted To Senate</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>HB 883</u>	Department of Corrections; extend repealer on drug and alcohol program at Bolivar County Regional Facility. <u>02/02 (H) Transmitted To Senate</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>HB 892</u> %	State Parole Board; extend repealer on. <u>02/02 (H) Transmitted To Senate</u>	<u>White</u>
<u>HB 942</u> %	Re-entry and employability; implement mechanisms to provide. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Bomgar</u>
<u>HB 950</u>	Juvenile offenders convicted of murder; revise sentencing options for. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Gipson</u>
<u>HB1072</u>	Law enforcement officers; require to provide mental health evaluation within 24 hours of misdemeanor arrest. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Dixon</u>
<u>HB1093</u>	Field supervision fees for offenders on probation, parole and other supervision; provide a determination of indigence may be made by DOC or sentencing court. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Bomgar</u>
<u>HB1124</u> *	Contraband cell phones; provide that it shall be a felony to communicate with inmates on such phones under certain circumstances. <u>02/07 (H) Passed As Amended</u>	<u>Kinkade</u>
<u>HB1125</u>	Correctional facility staff; shall not be eligible for reduction of sentence if convicted of introducing controlled substances into facility. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Kinkade</u>
<u>HB1126</u> *	Correctional facilities; provide certain penalties for correctional staff who introduce controlled substances into. <u>02/07 (H) Passed As Amended</u>	<u>Kinkade</u>
<u>HB1127</u> *	Department of Corrections; provide certain clarification for contracts between the department and contractor for private correctional facilities. <u>02/05 (H) Transmitted To Senate</u>	<u>Kinkade</u>
<u>HB1128</u>	Parole eligibility for offenders convicted before July 1, 2014; remove restriction from obtaining if convicted with enhanced penalties for drug offenses. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Kinkade</u>
<u>HB1139</u>	County jails that house state inmates; remove condition that jails be an approved county jail for housing state inmates under federal court order. <u>02/02 (H) Transmitted To Senate</u>	<u>Kinkade</u>
<u>HB1141</u>	Technical violations; clarify meaning of graduated sanctions and revocation sentencing. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Kinkade</u>
<u>HB1142</u>	Unmanned aircraft system; prohibit use of near correctional facilities. <u>02/08 (H) Transmitted To Senate</u>	<u>Kinkade</u>
<u>HB1143</u>	Felony extortion; provide when inmates have committed. <u>02/08 (H) Transmitted To Senate</u>	<u>Kinkade</u>
<u>HB1172</u>	Case plans for parole eligible inmates; provide Department of Corrections more lead-way in the implementation of. <u>02/08 (H) Transmitted To Senate</u>	<u>Kinkade</u>
<u>HB1327</u>	Mentally ill patient/inmate who escapes a facility; require public to be notified of mental health status. <u>01/30 (H) Died In Committee</u>	<u>Blackmon</u>
<u>HB1341</u>	Cell phones and other contraband found in correctional facilities; provide certain	<u>Kinkade</u>

penalties for.

01/30 (H) Died In Committee

HB1342 Technical violation centers; authorize D.O.C. to award participation credits for up to 10 days reduction of sentence for each 30 days of participation in. Kinkade

01/30 (H) Died In Committee

HB1354 County jails; require DOC to pay certain costs if offender is not removed within 14 days of being sentenced to TVCs, restitution centers or recidivism program. Kinkade

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01/30 (H) Died In Committee

HB1425 County jails; specify items that sheriff may purchase with monies from the Inmate Canteen Fund to benefit inmates and staff of. Carpenter

01/30 (H) Died In Committee

## KEY:

\* = Amended

% = 3/5ths Vote Required

V = Vetoed

\$ = Revenue

@ = Exempted From Deadline

P = Partially Vetoed

**Last Update on 02/12/2018 at 10:18***End Of Document*