

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 195**

A bill to amend 1953 PA 232, entitled
"Corrections code of 1953,"
(MCL 791.201 to 791.285) by adding section 14a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 **Sec. 14a. (1) The department shall create a family**
2 **reunification policy. The family reunification policy must include**
3 **the creation of a permanent family advisory board that consists of**
4 **not fewer than 11 and not more than 16 members, including the**
5 **following:**
- 6 **(a) One individual designated by the director who is an**
7 **employee of the department.**
 - 8 **(b) The legislative corrections ombudsman.**
 - 9 **(c) Not fewer than 4 or more than 6 individuals who are family**



1 members of individuals currently incarcerated in Michigan.

2 (d) Not fewer than 1 or more than 3 individuals who are family
3 members of individuals who were formerly incarcerated in Michigan.

4 (e) Not fewer than 1 individual who has a parent formerly or
5 currently incarcerated in Michigan.

6 (f) Not fewer than 1 or more than 2 individuals who were
7 formerly incarcerated in Michigan.

8 (g) One individual who is a social worker who has training and
9 expertise dealing with mental health issues and experience working
10 with formerly or currently incarcerated individuals.

11 (h) One individual who is an advocate for or mentor to
12 individuals incarcerated in Michigan.

13 (2) In addition to regular meetings of the family advisory
14 board, the board shall hold at least 2 public informational
15 meetings each year for family members and the public to provide
16 comments. The public informational meetings for family members and
17 the public to provide comments must not be held in the same region
18 of this state.

19 (3) Members of the family advisory board shall serve without
20 compensation. However, members of the board may be reimbursed for
21 their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
22 their official duties as members of the board.

23 (4) The family advisory board shall do all of the following:

24 (a) Assist the department by providing feedback regarding
25 policies and procedures that impact family reunification during and
26 after incarceration.

27 (b) Assist and advise the department regarding the development
28 of programs that support family reunification during and after
29 incarceration.



1 (c) Enhance communication between the department and families
2 regarding issues that impact a broad range of incarcerated and
3 formerly incarcerated individuals and their families, including,
4 but not limited to, gathering information from individuals in the
5 region and across the state with family members who are or have
6 been incarcerated, including a review of comment cards submitted at
7 individual correctional facilities.

8 (d) Identify barriers concerning family reunification during
9 and after incarceration.

10 (e) File an annual report with the chairs of the committees of
11 the senate and house of representatives concerned with the
12 department and criminal justice issues regarding its activities
13 under this section. The report must be filed not later than October
14 1 of each year.

15 (5) The department shall provide any staffing necessary for
16 the family advisory board to fulfill its duties under this section.

17 (6) The family advisory board may, in its discretion, create
18 regional committees or facility-focused family councils to carry
19 out its duties.

20 (7) The department shall provide information about the family
21 advisory board on its website and in the waiting rooms of
22 correctional facilities, including the board's contact information
23 for obtaining information and assistance with family-related
24 issues.

25 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect October
26 1, 2020.

