Requiring Assistance in Obtaining an ID for Certain Inmates Before Release; HB 2653

HB 2653 requires the Secretary of Corrections (Secretary) to prepare inmates for release from custody by assisting with gathering identification documentation and providing records of the inmate's education and work while in custody. The bill requires the Secretary and all state agencies to coordinate to implement the provisions of the bill.

The bill specifies its documentation provisions do not apply to inmates who are to be released to another jurisdiction on a warrant or detainer, or who are physically or mentally unable to return to the workforce upon release, as determined by the Secretary.

Citizenship Documentation

The bill requires the Secretary, within nine months prior to release, to determine whether an inmate has current versions of certain identification documentation. Specifically, the bill requires the Secretary to determine whether the inmate's documentation includes a certified copy of the inmate's birth certificate, Social Security card or replacement Social Security card, and driver's license or non-driver's identification card. If any documentation is determined to be missing or unavailable, the Secretary is required to make reasonable efforts to provide any such documentation to the inmate.

Other Documentation

Additionally, the bill requires the Secretary to provide each inmate with certain Department of Corrections records, if applicable, including the inmate's:

- Vocational training record;
- Work record;
- Any educational certificate or diplomas received by the inmate; and
- A resume that includes any trade or skills learned by the inmate.