

Juvenile Release Programs; House Sub. for SB 420

House Sub. for SB 420 establishes criteria to permit juvenile offenders in the custody of the Secretary of Corrections (Secretary) to leave a juvenile facility for certain programming.

Continuing law authorizes the Secretary to issue leave to a juvenile placed in a correctional facility when necessary for the juvenile to obtain medical services or to reintegrate into the community when accompanied by a staff member or other designated adult.

The bill authorizes the Secretary to establish work release and educational release programs for juveniles, and it specifies a juvenile may attend such release programs outside the facility without a staff member or designated adult when:

- The juvenile meets appropriate classification as defined by Department of Corrections policies and procedures;
- The Secretary finds the juvenile meets the criteria for a release program; and
- The Secretary finds the juvenile can receive substantial benefit from educational or vocational programs that are not offered at the facility.

The bill requires the Secretary to adopt policies and procedures to ensure adequate oversight, supervision, and accountability of a juvenile attending a release program, including communication with community providers related to the juvenile.