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SB 119 - Sponsor Statement

STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR PRISONERS

Senate Bill 119 provides easier access to identification cards for reentrants upon release, granting them an important tool for reintegration. SB 119 grants the Department of Corrections the statutory authority to issue state IDs to anyone leaving their custody that does not have an ID in their possession.

Individuals are required to present a valid form of ID in order to gain new employment, apply for housing, drive a car, open a bank account, travel, purchase a phone, apply for Medicaid or Social Security, obtain medication, and register to vote. The inability to find housing or employment or obtain medications are significant factors in whether or not a person is likely to reoffend, endangering public safety and costing the state more money once they are back in prison.

Reentry is an essential part of public safety. Ensuring reentrants are supported during their transitional period helps improve community well-being and public safety. By providing reentrants with a valid form of identification upon their release we also provide the individual with an essential tool for finding housing, employment, and medical care and alleviate the risk of reoffending.

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