

Legislative Analysis



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Senate Bill 835 (S-2) as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Sen. Stephanie Chang
House Committee: [Pending]
Senate Committee: Elections and Ethics
Complete to 12-17-24

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 835 would amend the Corrections Code to require the Michigan Department of Corrections to provide prisoners with information about Michigan's voter registration and election processes as part of the department's community reentry assistance requirements. The Department of Corrections would have to provide a written document, created by the Michigan Secretary of State, that includes the following:

- Information about how the Michigan Election Law does not prohibit an individual from voting once that person is no longer in prison if they are otherwise eligible.
- Specific information about how to register to vote.
- Specific information about how to cast a ballot in-person on election day or during the early voting period and how to cast an absentee ballot.
- Information about Michigan's regular election dates.

The bill would also remove a provision that currently requires a prisoner's refusal to obtain personal identification documents (such as a Social Security card or a state identification card) to be included in that prisoner's parole eligibility report.

MCL 791.234c et seq.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 835 would have no fiscal impact on the Department of Corrections. The department currently provides every individual leaving prison with information on voting. A document that describes voting eligibility and the local clerk's office, and that gives a website address and a phone number for more detailed information, is provided by the Department of Corrections to each individual upon release from prison.

Under the bill, the Department of State would be required to provide written information notifying individuals they are allowed to vote once they are released from prison, and other specific information on how to vote in person on election day, how to vote in person during the early voting period, and how to vote by absentee ballot. Providing such a document would have a minimal fiscal impact on the Department of State that would be absorbed by existing appropriations.

Legislative Analyst: Holly Kuhn
Fiscal Analysts: Robin Risko
Michael Cnossen

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