

HB 2439 -- INCREASING CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO INCARCERATED PARENTS

SPONSOR: Hubbard

Beginning January 1, 2017, this bill requires the Department of Corrections, in cooperation with the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services, to establish a two-year pilot project to increase the access that children, from birth to 17 years of age, have to an incarcerated parent who still has his or her parental rights, unless that parent has pled or been found guilty of certain offenses and crimes where the victim was a child.

The project will cover two facilities that house women and two facilities that house men. The Department of Corrections and the division must collaborate to develop and implement the project by providing transportation for visits with the parent once a month or through any other means available to increase children's visitation with parents who still have parental rights. Transportation for the child and his or her caretaker must be provided, and the caretaker is required to attend the visit. The project must focus on, but cannot be limited to, children who live 50 miles or more from the facility where the parent is incarcerated.

This bill is similar to HB 1541 (2014).