

**PRISONS & CORRECTIONS SECTION**  
**Public Policy Position**  
**HB 5243**

The Prisons & Corrections Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 163 members. The Prisons & Corrections Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Prisons & Corrections Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Prisons & Corrections Section has a public policy decision-making body with 11 members. On December 2, 2017, the Section adopted its position after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 10 members voted in favor of the Section's position on HB 5243, 0 members voted against this position, 1 member abstained, 0 members did not vote.

**The Prisons & Corrections Section Opposes HB 5243.**

**Explanation:**

The Section Council voted to oppose this Bill to the extent it requires DHHS involvement in psychological evaluations prior to parole, a function currently carried out by the Michigan Department of Corrections. DHHS does not have expertise with this population; the transportation costs for taking 2000 prisoners per year to the Forensic Center would be exorbitant; the Forensic Center is already behind on criminal responsibility evaluations; the MDOC is not currently behind in performing these evaluations; enormous delays in evaluations and paroles would result from this change; and DHHS does not have access to the electronic medical records within the MDOC. However, the Section Council does support the adoptions of reasonable time limits for conducting psychological evaluations for parole purposes.

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