

**SENATOR CATHY OSTEN**  
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**State of Connecticut**  
**SENATE**

*Chair*  
Appropriations Committee

*Vice Chair*  
Labor & Public Employees Committee  
Public Safety & Security Committee

*Member*  
Legislative Management Committee  
Regulation Review Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Veterans' Affairs Committee

September 4, 2019

Honorable Robert J. Devlin, Jr.  
Chair, Connecticut Sentencing Commission  
185 Main Street, Room 212  
New Britain, CT 06051

RE: Study concerning Inmates established as Chronically Mentally Ill

Dear Judge Devlin,

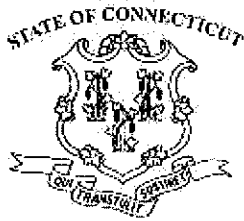
I am writing to respectfully request that the Connecticut Sentencing Commission undertake a study to provide data on the number of inmates in Connecticut prisons who are identified as chronically mentally ill, ascertain if this class of inmates is completing a longer portion of their sentences as compared to other inmates, and if so, the reasons why, and determine if this class of inmates accesses programs which allow for a smooth transition into the community at the same percentage rate as other inmates access such programs. To assist the Commission's efforts with this study, I am enclosing a copy of my Proposed Bill No. 760 from the 2019 regular legislative session for your reference.

Thank you for undertaking this important task. I look forward to your Commission's findings. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Osten  
State Senator, 19<sup>th</sup> District

Enclosure



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Proposed Bill No. 760**

LCO No. 3153



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
SEN. OSTEN, 19<sup>th</sup> Dist.

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO PROVIDE AND ANALYZE DATA CONCERNING INMATES ESTABLISHED AS CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to establish a task force to (1)
- 2 provide data on the number of inmates who are established as
- 3 chronically mentally ill, (2) ascertain if this class of inmates is
- 4 completing a longer portion of their sentences as compared to other
- 5 inmates, and if so, the reasons why, and (3) ascertain if this class of
- 6 inmates accesses programs which allow for a smooth transition into
- 7 the community at the same percentage rate as other inmates access
- 8 such programs.

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a task force to provide data on the number of inmates who are established as chronically mentally ill.