

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4514**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywomen Jaffer and Quijano**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires air conditioning in State correctional facilities.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/29/2022)**

1 AN ACT concerning correctional facilities and supplementing Title  
2 30 of the New Jersey Statutes.

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4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. As used in this act:

8 "Correctional facility" means any State correctional facility.

9 "Heat index" means what the temperature feels like to the human  
10 body when relative humidity is combined with the air temperature.

11 "State correctional facility" means a State prison or other penal  
12 institution.

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14 2. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall, pursuant to  
15 P.L.1976, c.98, s.6 (C.30:1B-6), adopt rules and regulations  
16 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section.

17 b. The rules and regulations established pursuant to subsection  
18 a. of this section shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

19 (1) Each correctional facility which is not equipped with air  
20 conditioning shall be retrofitted with an air conditioning system  
21 within three years of the effective date of this act.

22 (2) The air conditioning system shall maintain a temperature  
23 that does not exceed a heat index of 85 degrees.

24 (3) All new State correctional facilities shall be required to be  
25 equipped with air conditioning when constructed in accordance with  
26 this act.

27 c. The commissioner shall require all State correctional  
28 facilities to record and report the daily maximum temperature inside  
29 the facilities, which shall be included in the annual reports of the  
30 Department of Corrections and the Office of the Corrections  
31 Ombudsperson, which shall also be made available on their official  
32 websites.

33  
34 3. This act shall take effect immediately, except that the  
35 Commissioner of Corrections may take any anticipatory  
36 administrative action as necessary for the implementation of this  
37 act.

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40 STATEMENT

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42 This bill requires each existing correctional facility be retrofitted  
43 with air conditioning within three years of this act becoming  
44 effective. Construction of new correctional facilities, in accordance  
45 with this bill, will require installation of an air conditioning system.  
46 The Commissioner of Corrections would be required to ensure that  
47 the heat index or "feels like" temperature does not exceed 85  
48 degrees.

1       The commissioner is required to record and report the daily  
2       maximum temperature inside each facility, and include this data in  
3       the annual reports of the Department of Corrections and the Office  
4       of the Corrections Ombudsperson, which are to be made available  
5       on their official websites.

6       In the sponsor's view, excessive heat and lack of air conditioning  
7       put the elderly, those with health conditions such as high blood  
8       pressure and mental health issues at a higher risk. According to the  
9       sponsor, the Department of Corrections has current protocols in  
10      place to address excess heat which are initiated when temperatures  
11      exceed 85 degrees. The sponsor's intent is to have correctional  
12      facilities maintain indoor temperatures between 60 and 85 degrees.  
13      The bill clarifies that the reference to 85 degrees refers to the heat  
14      index or "how hot it feels" rather than the recorded air temperature.