



## SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

### House Bill 2084 Printer's No. 3509

Prime Sponsor: Representative Snyder  
Committee: Judiciary

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#### **SYNOPSIS:**

This bill amends Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) to require the Department of Corrections to issue pepper spray to certain officers and employees.

#### **SUMMARY:**

The bill requires the Department of Corrections to issue, on a routine basis, oleoresin capsicum (commonly referred to as "pepper spray") to any officer or employee of the Department who is on duty in a state correctional institution and who may respond to an emergency situation, as well as to additional officers and employees as the Department deems appropriate.

In order for an officer or employee of the Department to receive and carry pepper spray, the officer or employee must complete a training course in accordance with a Department policy on the use of pepper spray. The training course need not be repeated if the officer or employee transfers to a different state correctional institution. The training will be completed during the course of regular employment and at the same rate of compensation.

Officers or employees who are issued pepper spray may use it in accordance with Department policy, including:

- In any situation where verbal directions given to an inmate have failed and physical force may be necessary to regain control;
- When an inmate barricades or arms himself and cannot be approached without danger to personnel and the inmate; or
- When delay in establishing control would constitute a hazard to the inmate or other individuals or would result in a disturbance or property damage.

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This bill is effective in 60 days.

#### **BILL HISTORY:**

Passed the House on June 21, 2016 by a vote of 196-0.

Prepared by: Cawley 9/22/2016