

Assembly Bill No. 2133

CHAPTER 238

An act to add Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 6400) to the Penal Code, relating to prisons.

[Approved by Governor August 24, 2002. Filed with Secretary of State August 26, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2133, Goldberg. Prisons: inmate visitation.

Existing law includes legislative findings and declarations indicating the importance of visitation to prisoners as an effective correctional technique that reduces recidivism, and provides for specified services for visitors to prisons. Existing law includes regulations governing the policy and practice of the Department of Corrections concerning prison visitation.

This bill would require that any amendments to existing regulations and any future regulations adopted by the Department of Corrections which may impact the visitation of inmates recognize and consider the value of inmate visitation as a means of increasing safety in prisons, maintaining family and community connections, and preparing inmates for successful release and rehabilitation.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 6400) is added to the Penal Code, to read:

CHAPTER 10.7. PRISON VISITATION

6400. Any amendments to existing regulations and any future regulations adopted by the Department of Corrections which may impact the visitation of inmates shall do all of the following:

- (a) Recognize and consider the value of visiting as a means to improve the safety of prisons for both staff and inmates.
- (b) Recognize and consider the important role of inmate visitation in establishing and maintaining a meaningful connection with family and community.



(c) Recognize and consider the important role of inmate visitation in preparing an inmate for successful release and rehabilitation.

