

House Corrections Committee 1/19/2021 @ 3PM HB37

<u>The LWV of Delaware supports HB37-</u> An act to Amend Title 11 of the Delaware Code Relating to Public Health Emergency

The League of Women Voters of Delaware supports policies that promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans. The LWVDE also supports policies that will permit the disposition of offenders in the best interests of society, the victims, and the offenders and their families.

In order for the State of Delaware to do everything possible to stop the spread of COVID-19, the LWVDE supports HB37. This bill would award "Public Health Emergency Credits" whenever a public health emergency is declared, such as COVID-19, to persons whose prison sentences would have ended within a year. This would ease crowding, help with under-staffing, and allow persons to earn credits toward release when other avenues have been curtailed because of the current health emergency. This is one way to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in prison populations and reduce the risk for those who work there as well as the families of all involved. Prison populations do not deserve to be at greater risk than any other population during a public health emergency.