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Contact

William Green
Office of State Representative Christopher Benjamin
William.green@myfloridahouse.gov
(850)-717-5107

Bill by Representative Benjamin to Allow Authorized Personnel to Visit Detention Centers Passes First Committee

Miami Gardens, Fla. – [House Bill 527](#) by Representative Christopher Benjamin (D- Miami Gardens) has passed the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee. **HB 527** would authorize visitation to municipal and county detention facilities by specified persons, including those elected or appointed to serve that city or county, members of the Legislature, judges, and specific attorneys. It also prohibits the unreasonable denial of access by professional journalists or writers to those facilities.

The Senate companion, [SB 206](#), was filed by **Senator Jason Pizzo (D-Miami)**.

Representative Benjamin had this to say “Access is important. It’s a very powerful tool to be able to go unannounced to jails and prisons to see the conditions of the facilities, staff, and those they supervise.”

Senator Pizzo added, “With a surging legislative interest in the operations and conditions at state facilities, these bills are a natural extension of fostering a more complete look into the critical issues facing correctional facilities.”

More information about this bill can be found [Here](#).

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