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## State Prison Reform Bill Moves Ahead

### Sacramento

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill yesterday which would limit the powers of prison wardens to keep inmates in adjustment centers and solitary confinement.

The measure, authored by Assemblyman John Dunlap (Dem-Napa), now goes to the Senate Finance Committee, where a nearly identical proposal was defeated two months ago.

It would prohibit keeping a convict in solitary confinement for more than ten days in a three month period; and in "segregation" — such as in an adjustment center — for more than 60 days in a six month period without a court order.

For such an order, the warden must file a petition and if the inmate denies the

allegations, a hearing must be held — where the convict has the right to counsel and can cross-examine and call his own witnesses.

The court can then order "segregation" for up to 90 more days. If prison officials want further "segregation," another petition and hearing is needed.

The committee approved the measure on a split voice vote, which saw the rare occurrence of one senator casting a so-called "courtesy vote" for an absent colleague.

Senator Robert S. Stevens (Rep-L.A.), who said he opposed the bill, voted in favor of the measure because, he explained, Senator George Zenovich (Dem-Fresno) personally asked him to vote for it.

"It's strictly a vote for my colleague," Stevens declared. Zenovich, an attorney, was reportedly tied up in Fresno.

The committee killed another prison-related bill, by Assemblyman Frank Murphy (Rep-Santa Cruz), which would require a hearing by an officer of the Adult Authority before a parole could be revoked.

Our Correspondent