

[Third Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4785

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 8, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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District 33 (Hudson)

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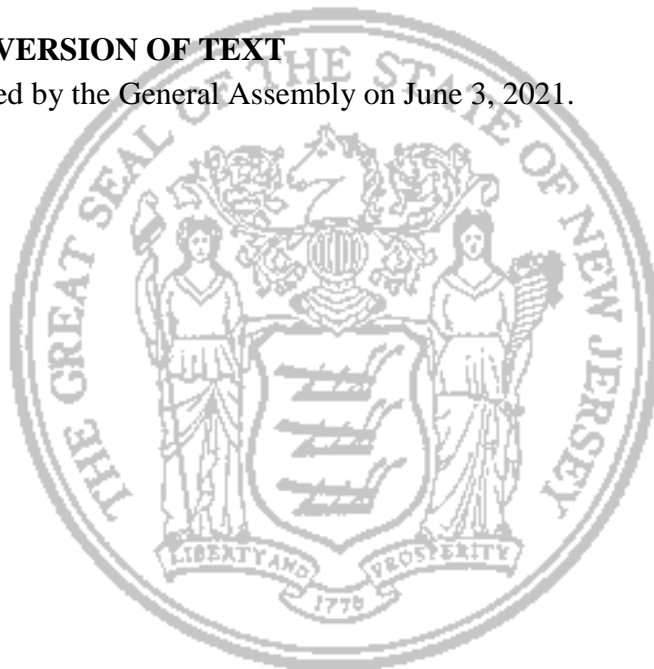
**Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey, Assemblyman Johnson and
Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle**

SYNOPSIS

Expands scope of inmate reentry assistance and benefits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on June 3, 2021.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning services for certain inmates and amending and
2 supplementing various parts of the statutory law.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.329 (C.30:1B-6.2) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 2. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to each inmate
10 at least 10 days prior to release from a State correctional facility:

11 a. A copy of the inmate's criminal history record and written
12 information on the inmate's right to have his criminal records
13 expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;

14 b. General written information on the inmate's right to vote under
15 R.S.19:4-1;

16 c. General written information on the availability of programs,
17 including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in
18 removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in
19 vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not
20 limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted
21 Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the
22 certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-7 et
23 seq.);

24 d. A detailed written record of the inmate's participation in
25 educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment
26 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

27 e. A written accounting of the fines, assessments, surcharges,
28 restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any other
29 obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;

30 f. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2020, c.45)

31 g. ¹**[A copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was born**
32 **in New Jersey;]** (Deleted by amendment, P.L. _____, c. _____) (pending
33 before the Legislature as this bill)¹

34 h. Assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;

35 i. A one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;

36 j. A **[two-week]** ¹**[three-month]** 30-day¹ supply of prescription
37 medication¹, ²[except if the prescribed medication is suboxone, a 90-
38 day prescription¹] a three-month supply of long-acting injectables,²
39 and, to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, ¹[an additional
40 30 day prescription order and]¹ two additional refills;

41 k. General written information concerning child support,
42 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information on
43 how to seek child support payments and information on where to seek
44 services regarding child support, child custody, and establishing
45 parentage; and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined **thus** is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AJU committee amendments adopted May 18, 2021.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted May 20, 2021.

³Assembly floor amendments adopted June 3, 2021.

1 1. (1) A medical discharge summary, which shall include
2 instructions on how to obtain from the commissioner a copy of the
3 inmate's full medical record. Upon request from the inmate, the
4 commissioner shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical record
5 in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate.

6 (2) Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the
7 commissioner, in consultation with the State Board of Medical
8 Examiners, shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
9 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.),
10 to ensure that these records are expeditiously and securely provided, in
11 a manner consistent with the provision of medical records by other
12 providers.

13 m. A benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining benefits
14 under the:

15 (1) Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
16 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);

17 (2) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
18 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
19 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

20 (3) Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
21 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for inmates
22 who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release,
23 emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New Jersey
24 recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51).
25 (cf:P.L.2020, c.45, s.1)

26
27 ¹2. (New section) The Commissioner of Corrections shall
28 provide to each inmate at least 60 days prior to release from a State
29 correctional facility a copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the
30 inmate was born in New Jersey.¹

31
32 ¹[2.] 3.¹ Section 2 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.15) is
33 amended to read as follows:

34 2. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide a non-
35 driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
36 Commission to each inmate, free of charge, as soon as practicable,
37 but not less than 10 days prior to the inmate's release from a State
38 correctional facility. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
39 shall issue the identification card and accept a former inmate's
40 Department of Corrections identification card as two points for the
41 purposes of applying for the identification card.

42 b. An inmate's Department of Corrections identification card
43 shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and
44 New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the
45 date of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to
46 gain access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible
47 including, but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

1 **【Whenever the】** c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection
2 b. of this section, whenever Motor Vehicle Commission agencies
3 are closed during a declared public health emergency, pursuant to
4 the "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et
5 seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251
6 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.), or both, the inmate's Department of
7 Corrections identification card shall be accepted by all State,
8 county, and municipal agencies and New Jersey **【nonprofits】**
9 **nonprofit organizations** in a manner as to allow the **【releasee】**
10 **released inmate** to gain access to services for which **【they are】** the
11 **inmate is** deemed eligible for the duration of the public health
12 emergency.

13 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.2)

14

15 ¹**【3】 4¹**. Section 4 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.16) is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 4. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall ensure that an
18 inmate is assisted with completing, obtaining any required
19 signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to
20 the Department of Human Services as soon as practicable but not
21 less than 30 days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration, an
22 online application for enrollment in the Medicaid program,
23 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

24 b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this
25 section, the Commissioner of Corrections shall also ensure that the
26 inmate is assisted in completing, obtaining any required signatures
27 or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the
28 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, as
29 soon as practicable but not less than 30 days prior to an inmate's
30 release from incarceration, online applications for enrollment in the
31 following programs:

32 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
33 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
34 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

35 (2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
36 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include , for
37 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of
38 release, the application for emergency assistance benefits issued to
39 Work First New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997,
40 c.14 (C.44:10-51).

41 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to
42 accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received
43 from the Department of Corrections pursuant to subsection a. of this
44 section.

45 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
46 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the Commissioner
47 of Corrections shall ensure that the address of the ¹**【appropriate】**
48 applicable Department of Community Affairs¹ regional non-profit

1 inmate reentry organization is used for the purposes of establishing
2 proof of residence to meet any applicable eligibility requirements.

3 e. All State, county, and municipal agencies, for the purposes
4 of establishing applicable eligibility requirements, shall:

5 (1) accept the address of the ¹[appropriate] applicable
6 Department of Community Affairs¹ regional non-profit inmate
7 reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify a
8 residence at the time of application for benefits; and

9 (2) accept an inmate's Department of Corrections identification
10 card to establish the inmate's identity.

11 f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for benefits under the
12 Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's certification
13 of income, resources, and family composition, and based on other
14 information immediately available at the time of application, shall
15 be deemed presumptively eligible for Work First New Jersey
16 assistance and immediate need assistance and shall receive this
17 assistance for a period of not less than 45 days following the
18 inmate's release from incarceration.

19 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.4)

20

21 ¹[4] 5¹. Section 5 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.17) is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 5. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to the
24 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in
25 advance of an inmate's release, the inmate's name, release date, and
26 contact information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a
27 telephone number or an email address.

28 b. The commissioner shall provide to the applicable
29 ¹Department of Community Affairs¹ regional non-profit inmate
30 reentry organization, in advance of an inmate's release, the
31 information required in subsection a. of this section ¹unless the
32 inmate requests that the information not be forwarded¹.

33 (cf: P. L.2020, c.45, s.5)

34

35 ¹[5] 6¹. (New section) ³[a.]³ The chief executive officer,
36 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to
37 each inmate ³incarcerated for 90 days or longer³ at least 30 days prior
38 to release from a facility:

39 ³[(1)] a.³ a copy of the inmate's criminal history record and
40 written information on the inmate's right to have the inmate's criminal
41 records expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey
42 Statutes;

43 ³[(2)] b.³ general written information on the inmate's right to
44 vote under R.S.19:4-1;

45 ³[(3)] c.³ general written information on the availability of
46 programs, including faith-based and secular programs, that would
47 assist in removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation

1 in vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not
2 limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted
3 Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the
4 certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-7 et
5 seq.);

6 ³[(4)] d.³ a detailed written record of the inmate's participation in
7 educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment
8 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

9 ³[(5)] e.³ a written accounting of the fines, assessments,
10 surcharges, restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any
11 other obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;

12 ³[(6)] f.³ a copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was
13 born in New Jersey;

14 ³[(7)] g.³ assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;

15 ³[(8)] h.³ a one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;

16 ³(9) i.³ a ~~two-week~~ ¹[~~three-month~~ 30-day¹ supply of
17 prescription medication¹, ²[except if the prescribed medication is
18 suboxone, a 90-day prescription¹] a three-month supply of long-acting
19 injectables,² and to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines,¹ [an
20 additional 30 day prescription order and]¹ two additional refills;

21 ³[(10)] j.³ general written information concerning child support,
22 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information on
23 how to seek child support payments and information on where to seek
24 services regarding child support, child custody, and establishing
25 parentage;

26 ³[(11)] k.³ a medical discharge summary, which shall include
27 instructions on how to obtain from the superintendent a copy of the
28 inmate's full medical record; upon request from the inmate, the
29 superintendent shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical record
30 in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate; the
31 superintendent shall comply with rules and regulations, adopted
32 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
33 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), that ensure that these records are expeditiously
34 and securely provided in a manner consistent with the provision of
35 medical records by other providers; and

36 ³[(12)] l.³ a benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining
37 benefits under the:

38 ³[(a)] (1)³ Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968,
39 c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);

40 ³[(b)] (2)³ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
41 established pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008,"
42 Pub.L.88-525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

43 ³[(c)] (3)³ Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant
44 to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for inmates
45 who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release,
46 emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New Jersey
47 recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51).

1 ³[b. If an inmate is at any time scheduled for release from a
2 county correctional facility in less than 30 days, the ¹[superintendent]
3 chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional
4 facility¹ shall comply with the provisions of subsection a. of this
5 section at least 48 hours prior to the inmate's release.]³

6
7 ³7. (New section) There shall be annually appropriated to the
8 counties through the annual appropriations act such amounts as shall
9 be deemed necessary to cover the cost of the prescription medicine
10 required pursuant to the provisions of subsection i. of section 6 of
11 P.L. . c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).³

12
13 ³[¹7.] ⁸3 (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden,
14 or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to the
15 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in
16 advance of ³[an inmate's] the³ release ³of an inmate who has been
17 incarcerated for 90 days or longer³, the inmate's name, release date,
18 and contact information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a
19 telephone number or an email address.

20 b. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county
21 correctional facility shall provide to the applicable Department of
22 Community Affairs regional non-profit inmate reentry organization, in
23 advance of ³[an inmate's] the³ release ³of an inmate who has been
24 incarcerated for 90 days or longer³, the information required in
25 subsection a. of this section unless the inmate requests that the
26 information not be forwarded.¹

27
28 ¹[⁶] ³[⁸¹] ⁹3. (New section) a. The chief executive officer,
29 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide a
30 non-driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
31 Commission to each county inmate ³incarcerated for 90 days or
32 longer³, free of charge, as soon as practicable, but not less than 10
33 days prior to the inmate's release from the county correctional facility.
34 The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue the
35 identification card and accept a former inmate's county correctional
36 facility identification card as two points for the purposes of applying
37 for the identification card.

38 b. An inmate's county correctional facility identification card
39 shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and
40 New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the date
41 of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to gain
42 access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible including,
43 but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

44 c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection b. of this section,
45 whenever the Motor Vehicle Commission agencies are closed during a
46 declared public health emergency, pursuant to the "Emergency Health
47 Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.), a state of

1 emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.), or
2 both, the inmate's Department of Corrections identification card shall
3 be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and New
4 Jersey nonprofit organizations in a manner as to allow the released
5 inmate to gain access to services for which they are deemed eligible
6 for the duration of the public health emergency.

7
8 ¹~~[7]~~ ³~~[9¹]~~ ¹⁰~~3~~. (New section) a. As soon as practicable but not
9 less than 30 days prior to ³~~[an inmate's]~~ ~~the~~³ release ³~~[from~~
10 ~~incarceration]~~ of an inmate incarcerated for 90 days or longer³, the
11 chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional
12 facility shall ensure that an inmate is assisted with completing,
13 obtaining any required signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding
14 for processing to the Department of Human Services an online
15 application for enrollment in the Medicaid program, established
16 pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

17 b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this section,
18 the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper also shall ensure that the
19 inmate is assisted in completing, obtaining any required signatures or
20 authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the appropriate
21 county welfare agency or board of social services, as soon as
22 practicable but not less than 30 days prior to an inmate's release from
23 incarceration, online applications for enrollment in the following
24 programs:

25 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
26 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
27 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

28 (2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
29 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include , for inmates
30 who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release, the
31 application for emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First
32 New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14
33 (C.44:10-51).

34 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to accept
35 and process the online applications for Medicaid received from the
36 Department of Corrections pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

37 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
38 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the chief executive
39 officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall
40 ensure that the address of the appropriate regional non-profit inmate
41 reentry organization is used for the purposes of establishing proof of
42 residence to meet any applicable eligibility requirements.

43 e. All State, county, and municipal agencies, for the purposes of
44 establishing applicable eligibility requirements, shall:

45 (1) accept the address of the appropriate regional non-profit inmate
46 reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify a
47 residence at the time of application for benefits; and

1 (2) accept an inmate's county correctional facility identification
2 card to establish the inmate's identity.

3 f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for benefits under the
4 Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's certification of
5 income, resources, and family composition, and based on other
6 information immediately available at the time of application, shall be
7 deemed presumptively eligible for Work First New Jersey assistance
8 and immediate need assistance and shall receive this assistance for a
9 period of not less than 45 days following the inmate's release from
10 incarceration.

11
12 ³[¹10.] ³11.³ (New section) a. The governing body of each
13 county in this State may, by duly adopted ordinance or resolution,
14 appoint a county reentry coordinator who shall be responsible for
15 evaluating the needs of, and navigating the appropriate treatment
16 and services for, each inmate in a county correctional facility in this
17 State.

18 b. The county reentry coordinator shall evaluate each inmate in
19 a county correctional facility who has been sentenced to a term of
20 incarceration or ordered detained pending trial following a pretrial
21 detention hearing. The purpose of the evaluation shall be to:

22 (1) identify which social services and reentry and rehabilitative
23 programs would benefit the inmate including, but not limited to, the
24 WorkFirst NJ Substance Abuse Initiative;

25 (2) determine whether the inmate is eligible to apply for federal,
26 State, and county public assistance program benefits including, but
27 not limited to, State and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
28 Program benefits, Medicaid, and housing assistance program
29 benefits;

30 (3) determine whether the inmate would benefit from substance
31 use disorder treatment including, but not limited to, medication-
32 assisted treatment; and

33 (4) identify other appropriate treatment, services, and programs
34 which would benefit the inmate.

35 c. The evaluation required pursuant to subsection b. of this
36 section shall be conducted in conjunction with the clinical screening
37 of inmates as part of the initial classification process.

38 d. The county reentry coordinator shall offer assistance to the
39 inmate in accessing any services deemed appropriate for the inmate,
40 based on the evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection b. of this
41 section, by:

42 (1) assisting the inmate with scheduling and otherwise accessing
43 appropriate treatment, services, and programming upon the inmate's
44 release from the facility;

45 (2) providing information concerning, and assistance in
46 completing, applications for appropriate State and county public
47 assistance program benefits which shall include, but not be limited
48 to, State and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

1 benefits, Medicaid, and housing assistance program benefits. The
2 county reentry coordinator shall make every effort to ensure that the
3 inmate is actively enrolled in appropriate programming upon or as
4 soon as practicable following the inmate's release from the facility;

5 (3) providing information concerning available substance use
6 disorder treatment and services including, but not limited to,
7 medication-assisted treatment. The county reentry coordinator shall
8 assist the inmate with scheduling and otherwise accessing
9 appropriate treatment and services upon the inmate's release from
10 the facility;

11 (4) providing information concerning relevant social services
12 and reentry and rehabilitative programs including, but not limited
13 to, the WorkFirst NJ Substance Abuse Initiative. The county
14 reentry coordinator shall assist the inmate with completing
15 applications for and otherwise accessing appropriate services and
16 programming upon the inmate's release from the facility;

17 (5) providing information concerning services provided by the
18 State's One-Stop Career Centers. The county reentry coordinator
19 shall schedule appointments for the inmate to meet with
20 representatives from the career center and shall register the inmate
21 for participation in any mandatory programming upon the inmate's
22 release from the facility;

23 (6) providing information concerning insurance eligibility and
24 assistance in completing applications for insurance coverage; the
25 county reentry coordinator shall make every effort to ensure that
26 coverage for the inmate is active upon or as soon as practicable
27 following the inmate's release from the facility; and

28 (7) providing information concerning any other treatment,
29 services, and programming deemed appropriate based on the
30 evaluation required pursuant to this section.

31 e. The county reentry coordinator also shall:

32 (1) provide assistance to each inmate, upon release from a
33 county correctional facility, with obtaining a non-driver
34 identification card;

35 (2) ensure, to the best of the coordinator's ability, and
36 conditioned on discharge information provided by the
37 Administrative Office of the Courts, that each inmate is released
38 from custody during regular business hours so that the inmate may
39 access appropriate treatment and services immediately upon release;
40 and

41 (3) ensure each inmate at the time of discharge is provided with
42 the prescription medication required pursuant to paragraph (9) of
43 subsection a. of section 6 of P.L. c. (pending before the
44 Legislature as this bill).¹

45
46 ³[^{11.}] ³12.³ (New section) a. The county reentry coordinator
47 shall record data regarding: the number of inmates who are offered
48 services pursuant to section 10 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending

1 before the Legislature as this bill); the number of inmates who
2 accept the services offered; the types of services provided to each
3 inmate who accepts the services offered; the race, gender, ethnicity,
4 and age of each inmate; a record of any crimes committed by
5 inmates who are released from the facility and the types of crimes
6 committed for a period of three years following the inmate's
7 release; and the number of inmates who were not released, and the
8 reasons why they were not released, from a county correctional
9 facility during regular business hours.

10 b. The data shall be analyzed to determine whether the rates
11 and nature of rearrests and convictions differ according to whether
12 an inmate received services in accordance with section 10 of
13 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
14 The county reentry coordinator shall annually prepare and transmit
15 the findings to the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of
16 each county correctional facility, as appropriate; the superintendent,
17 director, or other chief administrative officer of the County Board
18 of Social Services or welfare agency, as appropriate; the governing
19 body of the county in which the correctional facility is located; and
20 the Commissioner of Corrections.¹

21
22 ³[¹12.] ³13.³ (New section) The county reentry coordinator
23 shall, in collaboration with the chief executive officer, warden, or
24 keeper of a county correctional facility, develop peer counseling
25 programs in the county correctional facility that support the
26 treatment of county inmates with substance use disorders. The
27 warden, director, or administrator may additionally develop
28 initiatives to provide inmates in the custody of the county
29 correctional facility with access to professional substance use
30 disorder counseling.¹

31
32 ³[¹13.] ³14.³ (New section) a. The county reentry coordinator
33 shall meet regularly with community stakeholders who may offer
34 guidance for evaluating the needs of and providing services to
35 inmates in county correctional facilities including, but not limited
36 to:

- 37 (1) the Commissioner of Corrections, or a designee;
38 (2) the Commissioner of Human Services, or a designee;
39 (3) the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of the county
40 correctional facility;
41 (4) the superintendent, director, or other chief administrative
42 officer of the County Board of Social Services or welfare agency, as
43 appropriate;
44 (5) the county human services director, or a designee;
45 (6) the county mental health administrator, or a designee;
46 (7) the president of a county community college, or a designee;
47 (8) reentry services providers in the county;

1 (9) substance use disorder treatment providers in the county;
2 and

3 (10) a person who previously has received substance use
4 disorder services in the county.

5 b. Based on the guidance received during the meetings
6 conducted pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the county
7 reentry coordinator shall:

8 (1) establish best practices for preparing county inmates for
9 release;

10 (2) identify services available in the county that may be needed
11 by inmates upon release from a county correctional facility
12 including, but not limited to, housing, food, medical care, clothing,
13 substance use disorder treatment; mental health services,
14 employment assistance, and education assistance;

15 (3) make appropriate recommendations to the county
16 correctional facility and County Board of Social Services or welfare
17 agency with respect to preparing county inmates for successful
18

19 ³~~[14]~~ ³15. There shall be annually appropriated through the
20 annual appropriations act such amounts as shall be deemed necessary
21 to implement the provisions of sections ³~~[10]~~ ³11³ through ³~~[13]~~ ³14³
22 of P.L. . c. (C. through C.) (pending before the Legislature as
23 this bill) concerning the county reentry coordinator.¹
24

25 ¹~~[8.]~~ ³~~[15.1]~~ ³16. (New section) An inmate released from a
26 State or county correctional facility shall be authorized to use the
27 address of a nonprofit inmate reentry organization approved by the
28 Department of Community Affairs as a mailing address in an
29 application for benefits under the:

30 a. Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
31 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);

32 b. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
33 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
34 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

35 c. Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
36 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.).
37

38 ¹~~[9.]~~ ³~~[16.1]~~ ³17. Section 5 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-48) is
39 amended to read as follows:

40 5. a. Only those persons who are United States citizens or
41 eligible aliens shall be eligible for benefits under the Work First
42 New Jersey program. Single adults or couples without dependent
43 children who are legal aliens who meet federal requirements and
44 have applied for citizenship, shall not receive benefits for more than
45 six months unless (1) they attain citizenship, or (2) they have passed
46 the English language and civics components for citizenship, and are
47 awaiting final determination of citizenship by the federal
48 Immigration and Naturalization Service.

1 b. The following persons shall not be eligible for assistance and
2 shall not be considered to be members of an assistance unit:

3 (1) non-needy caretakers, except that the eligibility of a
4 dependent child shall not be affected by the income or resources of
5 a non-needy caretaker;

6 (2) Supplemental Security Income recipients, except for the
7 purposes of receiving emergency assistance benefits pursuant to
8 section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51);

9 (3) illegal aliens;

10 (4) other aliens who are not eligible aliens;

11 (5) a person absent from the home who is incarcerated in a
12 federal, State, county or local corrective facility or under the
13 custody of correctional authorities, except as provided by regulation
14 of the commissioner;

15 (6) a person who: is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or
16 confinement after conviction, under the laws of the jurisdiction
17 from which the person has fled, for a crime or an attempt to commit
18 a crime which is a felony or a high misdemeanor under the laws of
19 the jurisdiction from which the person has fled; or is violating a
20 condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state law;

21 (7) [a person convicted on or after August 22, 1996 under
22 federal or state law of any offense which is classified as a felony or
23 crime, as appropriate, under the laws of the jurisdiction involved
24 and which has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a
25 controlled substance as defined in section 102(6) of the federal
26 "Controlled Substances Act" (21 U.S.C. s.802 (6)), who would
27 otherwise be eligible for general public assistance pursuant to
28 P.L.1947, c.156 (C.44:8-107 et seq.); except that such a person who
29 is convicted of any such offense which has as an element the
30 possession or use only of such a controlled substance may be
31 eligible for Work First New Jersey general public assistance
32 benefits if the person enrolls in or has completed a licensed
33 residential or outpatient drug treatment program. An otherwise
34 eligible individual who has a past drug conviction shall be eligible
35 for general public assistance without enrolling in or completing a
36 drug treatment program if either: (1) an appropriate treatment
37 program is not available; or (2) the person is excused from enrolling
38 in a treatment program for good cause pursuant to regulation.

39 Eligibility for benefits for a person entering a licensed drug
40 treatment program which does not operate in a State correctional
41 facility or county jail shall commence upon the person's enrollment
42 in the drug treatment program, and shall continue during the
43 person's active participation in, and upon completion of, the drug
44 treatment program, except that during the person's active
45 participation in a drug treatment program and the first 60 days after
46 completion of a drug treatment program, the commissioner shall
47 provide for testing of the person to determine if the person is free of
48 any controlled substance. If the person is determined to not be free

1 of any controlled substance during the 60-day period, the person's
2 eligibility for benefits pursuant to this paragraph shall be
3 terminated; except that this provision shall not apply to the use of
4 prescription drugs by a person who is actively participating in a
5 drug treatment program, as prescribed by the drug treatment
6 program. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to carry out the
7 provisions of this paragraph, which shall include the criteria for
8 determining active participation in and completion of a drug
9 treatment program.

10 Eligibility for benefits for a person who completes a licensed
11 residential drug treatment program which operates in a State
12 correctional facility or county jail, in accordance with section 1 of
13 P.L.2014, c.1 (C.26:2B-40), shall commence upon release from
14 incarceration.

15 Cash benefits, less a personal needs allowance, for a person
16 receiving general public assistance benefits under the Work First
17 New Jersey program who is enrolled in and actively participating in
18 a licensed drug treatment program shall be issued directly to the
19 drug treatment provider to offset the cost of treatment. Upon
20 completion of the drug treatment program, the cash benefits shall be
21 then issued to the person. In the case of a delay in issuing cash
22 benefits to a person receiving Work First New Jersey general public
23 assistance benefits who has completed the drug treatment program,
24 the drug treatment provider shall transmit to the person those funds
25 received on behalf of that person after completion of the drug
26 treatment program; ~~] (Deleted by amendment, (P.L. , c.)~~
27 (pending before the Legislature as this bill

28 (8) a person found to have fraudulently misrepresented his
29 residence in order to obtain means-tested, public benefits in two or
30 more states or jurisdictions, who shall be ineligible for benefits for
31 a period of 10 years from the date of conviction in a federal or state
32 court; or

33 (9) a person who intentionally makes a false or misleading
34 statement or misrepresents, conceals or withholds facts for the
35 purpose of receiving benefits, who shall be ineligible for benefits
36 for a period of six months for the first violation, 12 months for the
37 second violation, and permanently for the third violation.

38 c. A person who makes a false statement with the intent to
39 qualify for benefits and by reason thereof receives benefits for
40 which the person is not eligible is guilty of a crime of the fourth
41 degree.

42 d. Pursuant to the authorization provided to the states under 21
43 U.S.C. s.862a(d)(1), this State elects to exempt from the application
44 of 21 U.S.C. s.862a(a):

45 (1) needy persons and their dependent children domiciled in
46 New Jersey for the purposes of receiving benefits under the Work
47 First New Jersey program and food assistance under the federal

1 "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-234 (7 U.S.C. s.2011
2 et seq.); and

3 (2) single persons and married couples without dependent
4 children domiciled in New Jersey for the purposes of receiving food
5 assistance under Pub.L.110-234.

6 (cf: P.L.2016, c.69, s.1)

7

8 ³~~[17.]~~ ³18. (New section) The Governor shall appoint an
9 independent investigator to evaluate the Commissioner of
10 Correction's compliance with the provisions of P.L.2019, c.282;
11 P.L.2019, c.288; P.L.2019, c.364; P.L.2020, c.45; and P.L. c.
12 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Within six months of
13 the effective date of this act, the independent investigator shall
14 report findings and conclusions to the Governor and the Legislature,
15 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).¹

16

17 ¹[10.] ³~~[18.]~~ ³19. This act shall take effect immediately.