

# SENATE, No. 370

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “County Jail Rehabilitation and Re-Entry Program” to evaluate county inmate needs; assigns certain county caseworkers to assist inmates in accessing appropriate benefits, treatment, and services.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1   **AN ACT** concerning the provision of treatment and services to  
2       county inmates and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised  
3       Statutes.

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

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8       1. a. The warden, keeper, or administrator of a county  
9       correctional facility, in consultation with the Commissioner of  
10      Human Services and the superintendent, director, or other chief  
11      administrative officer of the County Board of Social Services in  
12      each county, shall establish a “County Jail Rehabilitation and Re-  
13      Entry Program” for evaluating each inmate in a county correctional  
14      facility to:

15       (1) determine whether the inmate is eligible to apply for federal,  
16       State, and county public assistance program benefits including, but  
17       not limited to, State and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
18       Program benefits, Medicaid, and housing assistance program  
19       benefits;

20       (2) determine whether the inmate would benefit from substance  
21       use disorder treatment including, but not limited to, medication-  
22       assisted treatment;

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

26       (4) provide the inmate with information concerning any other  
27       treatment, services, and programs which would benefit the inmate.

28       b. The evaluation of each inmate in a county correctional  
29       facility required pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall be  
30       conducted in conjunction with the clinical screening of inmates as  
31       part of the initial classification process.

32       c. Pursuant to the County Jail Rehabilitation and Re-Entry  
33       Program, each inmate shall be offered services deemed appropriate  
34       based on the evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection a. of this  
35       section.

36       d. The warden, keeper, or administrator of a county  
37       correctional facility shall consult with the superintendent, director,  
38       or other chief administrative officer of the County Board of Social  
39       Services in the county in which the facility is located to ensure that  
40       appropriate staff is assigned to the facility in order to effectuate the  
41       provisions of P.L.     , c.   (C.     ) (pending before the Legislature  
42       as this bill).

43  
44       2. a. Each inmate shall be offered services deemed  
45       appropriate based on the evaluation conducted pursuant to the  
46       County Jail Rehabilitation and Re-Entry Program established  
47       pursuant to section 1 of P.L.     , c.   (C.     ) (pending before the  
48       Legislature as this bill). Each inmate who elects to receive the

1 services offered shall be assigned a caseworker who shall be a  
2 representative of the County Board of Social Services of the county  
3 in which the facility is located. The caseworker shall assist the  
4 inmate in accessing the appropriate benefits, treatment, and  
5 services. The caseworker, at a minimum, shall provide the inmate  
6 with:

7 (1) Information concerning, and assistance in completing,  
8 applications for appropriate State and county public assistance  
9 program benefits which include, but shall not be limited to, State  
10 and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits,  
11 Medicaid, and housing assistance program benefits. The case  
12 worker shall make every effort to ensure that the inmate is actively  
13 enrolled in appropriate programming upon or as soon as practicable  
14 following the inmate's release from the facility;

15 (2) Information concerning available substance use disorder  
16 treatment and services including, but not limited to, medication-  
17 assisted treatment. The caseworker shall assist the inmate with  
18 scheduling and otherwise accessing appropriate treatment and  
19 services upon the inmate's release from the facility;

20 (3) Information concerning relevant social services and reentry  
21 and rehabilitative programs including, but not limited to, the  
22 WorkFirst NJ Substance Abuse Initiative. The caseworker shall  
23 assist the inmate with completing applications for and otherwise  
24 accessing, appropriate services and programming upon the inmate's  
25 release from the facility;

26 (4) Information concerning services provided by the State's  
27 One Stop Career Centers. The caseworker shall schedule  
28 appointments for the inmate to meet with representatives from the  
29 career center and shall register the inmate for participation in any  
30 mandatory programming upon the inmate's release from the  
31 facility;

32 (5) Information concerning insurance eligibility and assistance  
33 in completing applications for insurance coverage; the case worker  
34 shall make every effort to ensure that coverage for the inmate is  
35 active upon or as soon as practicable following the inmate's release  
36 from the facility;

37 (6) Information concerning any other treatment, services, and  
38 programming deemed appropriate by the evaluation required  
39 pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
40 Legislature as this bill). The caseworker shall assist the inmate  
41 with scheduling and otherwise accessing appropriate treatment,  
42 services, and programming upon the inmate's release from the  
43 facility;

44 and

45 b. The caseworker shall maintain continued contact by the  
46 County Board of Social Services with the inmate following the  
47 inmate's release from the facility in order to ensure that the inmate  
48 continues to access relevant benefits, services, and treatment.

- 1        3. The warden, keeper, or administrator of a county  
2        correctional facility shall:
- 3        a. Provide to each county correctional facility inmate upon  
4        release from the facility a non-driver identification card, which  
5        shall be issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission; the  
6        commission shall assign a two point value to a former inmate's  
7        Department of Corrections identification card;
- 8        b. Provide to each county correctional facility inmate upon  
9        release from the facility a two-week supply of medications,  
10       including medication for the purposes of medication-assisted  
11       treatment; and
- 12       c. Ensure that each inmate is released from custody during  
13       regular business hours so that the inmate may access appropriate  
14       treatment and services immediately upon release.
- 15
- 16       4. a. The warden, keeper, or administrator of a county  
17       correctional facility shall record data regarding: the number of  
18       inmates who are offered services pursuant to section 2 of  
19       P.L.     , c. (C.     ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);  
20       the number of inmates who accept the services offered; the types of  
21       services provided to each inmate who accepts the services offered;  
22       the race, gender, ethnicity, and age of each inmate; a record of any  
23       crimes committed by inmates who are released from the facility and  
24       the types of crimes committed for a period of three years following  
25       the inmate's release. These data shall be analyzed to determine  
26       whether the rates and nature of rearrests and convictions differ  
27       according to whether an inmate received services in accordance  
28       with the County Jail Rehabilitation and Re-Entry Program  
29       established pursuant to P.L.     , c. (C.     ) (pending before the  
30       Legislature as this bill).
- 31       b. The warden, keeper, or administrator of a county  
32       correctional facility shall annually prepare and transmit to the  
33       County Executive, County Manager, or Board of Chosen  
34       Freeholders of the county in which the facility is located, and to any  
35       county committee on inmate reentry services, the reports prepared,  
36       along with any recommendations by the warden, keeper, or  
37       administrator for improving the effectiveness of the County Jail  
38       Rehabilitation and Re-Entry Program.
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- 40       5. The Commissioner of Corrections, in consultation with the  
41       Commissioner of Human Services, may adopt rules and regulations  
42       pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
43       (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to carry out the purposes of this act  
44       P.L.     , c. (C.     ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
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- 46       6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month  
47       next following the date of enactment.

## STATEMENT

This bill establishes a program to evaluate county correctional facility inmate needs and assigns certain county caseworkers to assist the inmate in accessing appropriate benefits, treatment, and services.

Specifically, the bill requires the warden, keeper, or administrator of a county correctional facility, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the superintendent, director, or other chief administrative officer of the County Board of Social Services in each county, to establish a program for evaluating each inmate in a county correctional facility to: (1) determine whether the inmate is eligible to apply for federal, State, and county public assistance program benefits including, but not limited to, State and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, Medicaid, and housing assistance program benefits; (2) determine whether the inmate would benefit from substance use disorder treatment including, but not limited to, medication-assisted treatment; (3) identify which social services and reentry and rehabilitative programs would benefit the inmate including, but not limited to, the WorkFirst NJ Substance Abuse Initiative; and (4) provide the inmate with information concerning any other treatment, services, and programs which would benefit the inmate.

The evaluation is to be conducted as part of the initial classification process. The warden, keeper, or administrator is required to consult with the superintendent, director, or other chief administrative officer of the County Board of Social Services to ensure that appropriate staff is assigned to work at the facility in order to effectuate the provisions of the bill.

The bill requires each county inmate to be assigned a County Board of Social Services caseworker to assist the inmate in accessing appropriate benefits, treatment, and services. The bill also sets forth the services that the caseworker is required, at a minimum, to provide to the inmate.

Under the bill, the warden, keeper, or administrator of a county correctional facility is required to: provide to each county inmate upon release from the facility a non-driver identification card, to be issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, and for which the commission is to assign a former inmate's Department of Corrections identification card a two-point value; and a two-week supply of medications, including medications for the purposes of medication-assisted treatment. The warden, keeper, or administrator also is required to ensure that each inmate is released from custody during regular business hours so that the inmate may access appropriate services and treatment immediately upon release.

In addition, the warden, keeper, or administrator of a county correctional facility is required to record data regarding: the number

1 of inmates who are offered services in accordance with County Jail  
2 Rehabilitation and Re-Entry Program; the number of inmates who  
3 accept the services offered; the types of services provided to each  
4 inmate who accepts the services offered; the race, gender, ethnicity,  
5 and age of each inmate; and a record of any crimes committed by  
6 inmates who are released from the facility and the types of crimes  
7 committed for a period of three years following the inmate's  
8 release. These data are to be analyzed to determine whether the  
9 rates and nature of rearrests and convictions differ according to  
10 whether an inmate received services pursuant to the program.

11 The warden, keeper, or administrator is required to annually  
12 prepare and transmit to the County Executive, County Manager, or  
13 Board of Chosen Freeholders of the county in which the facility is  
14 located, and to any county committee on inmate reentry services,  
15 the reports prepared, along with any recommendations by the  
16 warden, keeper, or administrator for improving the effectiveness of  
17 the County Jail Rehabilitation and Re-Entry Program.