

SENATE, No. 370

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

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

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee with technical review.



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:*

7
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 freeholders
34 of the county in which the facility is located, and to any county
35 committee on inmate reentry services, the reports prepared, along
36 with any recommendations by the warden, keeper, or administrator
37 for improving the effectiveness of the County Jail Rehabilitation
38 and Re-Entry Program.
- 39
- 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
- 45 6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
46 next following the date of enactment.