

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 374

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)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Requires each county to establish inmate reentry services committee.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on January 27, 2020, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/27/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning reentry services for county jail inmates and
 2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The governing body of each county in this State shall, by
 8 duly adopted ordinance or resolution, establish a public body
 9 entitled the "County Inmate Reentry Committee" inserting all or
 10 any significant part of the name of the county. Each county
 11 committee shall consist of nine members as follows:

12 (1) a member of the board of chosen freeholders ¹selected by the
 13 board of chosen freeholders¹ ;

14 (2) the warden or other executive head of the county
 15 correctional facility, or a designee;

16 (3) the president of a county ¹**["community"]** college ¹serving
 17 that county¹ , or a designee;

18 (4) the head of the county board of social services, or a
 19 designee;

20 (5) one public member who shall be a provider of reentry
 21 services in the county;

22 (6) one public member who shall be a provider of substance
 23 ¹**["abuse"]** use disorder treatment¹ services in the county; and

24 (7) three public members who shall represent the general public.

25 The public members shall be appointed by the board of chosen
 26 freeholders, or, in the counties operating under the county executive
 27 plan or county supervisor plan pursuant to the provisions of the
 28 "Optional County Charter Law," P.L.1972, c.154 (C.40:41A-1 et
 29 seq.), by the county executive, or the county supervisor, as
 30 appropriate, with the advice and consent of the board of chosen
 31 freeholders.

32 b. Of the five public members first to be appointed, three shall
 33 be appointed for terms of two years, one for a term of three years,
 34 and one for a term of four years. Thereafter, all appointments shall
 35 be made for terms of four years. Each of these members shall hold
 36 office for the term of the appointment and until a successor has
 37 been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy in the membership
 38 occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in the same
 39 manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired term only.

40 c. The board of chosen freeholders, county executive, or
 41 county supervisor, as appropriate, may appoint other advisory
 42 members to the committee as ¹**["they"]** the board, executive, or
 43 supervisor, as applicable,¹ may deem appropriate.

44 d. Members of the committee shall not receive compensation
 45 but the appointed members may, subject to the limits of funds

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:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted January 27, 2020.

1 appropriated or otherwise made available for these purposes, be
2 reimbursed for expenses actually incurred in attending meetings of
3 the committee and in performance of their duties as members of the
4 committee.

5 e. The committee shall meet as soon as practicable following
6 the appointment of its members and shall elect a chair from among
7 its members. The chair shall serve for a term of one year and may
8 be reelected. The committee shall establish procedures for the
9 conduct of regular and special meetings, provided that the regular
10 meetings shall be held at least monthly. Five members shall
11 constitute a quorum. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance
12 with the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act,"
13 P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.).

14 f. The committee shall:

15 (1) identify those services available in the county that may be
16 needed by inmates upon release from a county correctional facility,
17 including but not limited to: housing, food, medical care, clothing,
18 substance abuse treatment, mental health care, employment, and
19 education;

20 (2) establish a health information exchange for sharing county
21 inmate health data between the county correctional facility and
22 appropriate medical, mental health, social service, and other
23 providers;

24 (3) establish best practices for:

25 ¹**[(i)]** ¹(a) preparing county inmates for release;

26 ¹**[(ii)]** ¹(b) providing the services identified in paragraph (1) of
27 this subsection; and

28 ¹**[(iii)]** ¹(c) continuing post-release services, support, and
29 supervision for a minimum of one year; and

30 (4) make appropriate recommendations to the county and
31 municipal governing bodies and boards with respect to resolutions,
32 ordinances, and regulations needed to prepare county inmates for
33 successful reentry into the community and reduce recidivism.

34

35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.