

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2953

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

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District 20 (Union)

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District 33 (Hudson)

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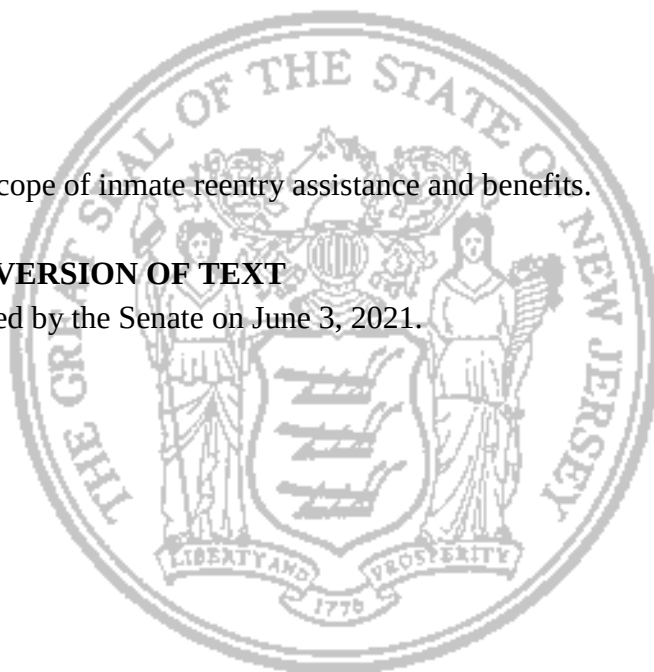
**Senators Pou, Ruiz, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey,
Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle and Senator
Turner**

SYNOPSIS

Expands scope of inmate reentry assistance and benefits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on June 3, 2021.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/2/2021)

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-
23 7 et 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]** ²**[three-month]** 30-day² supply of prescription
37 medication ², a three-month supply of long-acting injectables,² and ²,²
38 to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, ²**[an additional 30 day**
39 **prescription order and]**² two additional refills ²**[¹or long-acting**
40 **injectables¹]**²;

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

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 SLP committee amendments adopted March 11, 2021.

²Senate floor amendments adopted June 3, 2021.

1 services regarding child support, child custody, and establishing
2 parentage; and

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

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

15 m. A benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining benefits
16 under the:

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

19 (2) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
20 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
21 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

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

27 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.1)

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

33
34 ¹[2.] ^{3.1} Section 2 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.15) is
35 amended to read as follows:

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

44 b. An inmate's Department of Corrections identification card
45 shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and
46 New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the
47 date of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to

1 gain access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible
2 including, but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

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

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

16
17 **¹【3.】 4.** Section 4 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.16) is amended
18 to read as follows:

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

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

34 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
35 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
36 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

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

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

46 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
47 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of

1 Corrections shall ensure that the address of the ²[appropriate]
2 applicable Department of Community Affairs² regional non-profit
3 inmate reentry organization is used for the purposes of establishing
4 proof of residence to meet any applicable eligibility requirements.

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

7 (1) accept the address of the ²[appropriate] applicable Department
8 of Community Affairs² regional non-profit inmate reentry organization
9 for an inmate who is unable to identify a residence at the time of
10 application for benefits; and

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

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

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

22
23 ¹[4.] ^{5.1} Section 5 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.17) is amended
24 to read as follows:

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

30 b. The commissioner shall provide to ¹[the applicable regional]
31 ²[each¹] the applicable Department of Community Affairs regional²
32 non-profit inmate reentry organization ²[¹approved by the Department
33 of Community Affairs¹]², in advance of an inmate's release, the
34 information required in subsection a. of this section ¹unless the inmate
35 requests that the information not be forwarded¹.

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

37
38 ¹[5.] ^{6.1} (New section) ²[a.]² The chief executive officer,
39 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to
40 each inmate ²incarcerated for 90 days or longer² at least 30 days prior
41 to release from a facility:

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

- 1 ²[(2)] b.² general written information on the inmate's right to vote
2 under R.S.19:4-1;
- 3 ²[(3)] c.² general written information on the availability of
4 programs, including faith-based and secular programs, that would
5 assist in removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation
6 in vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not
7 limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted
8 Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the
9 certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-
10 7 et seq.);
- 11 ²[(4)] d.² a detailed written record of the inmate's participation in
12 educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment
13 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;
- 14 ²[(5)] e.² a written accounting of the fines, assessments,
15 surcharges, restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any
16 other obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;
- 17 ²[(6)] f.² a copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was
18 born in New Jersey;
- 19 ²[(7)] g.² assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;
- 20 ²[(8)] h.² a one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;
- 21 ²[(9)] i.² a ²[three-month] 30-day² supply of prescription
22 medication ², a three-month supply of long-acting injectables,² and, to
23 the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, ²[an additional 30 day
24 prescription order and]² two additional refills ²[or long-acting
25 injectables¹]²;
- 26 ²[(10)] j.² general written information concerning child support,
27 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information on
28 how to seek child support payments and information on where to seek
29 services regarding child support, child custody, and establishing
30 parentage;
- 31 ²[(11)] k.² a medical discharge summary, which shall include
32 instructions on how to obtain from the superintendent a copy of the
33 inmate's full medical record; upon request from the inmate, the
34 superintendent shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical record
35 in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate; the
36 superintendent shall comply with rules and regulations, adopted
37 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
38 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), that ensure that these records are expeditiously
39 and securely provided in a manner consistent with the provision of
40 medical records by other providers; and
- 41 ²[(12)] l.² a benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining
42 benefits under the:
- 43 ²[(a)] (1)² Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968,
44 c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);

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

4 ²**[(c)] (3)**² Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant
5 to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for inmates
6 who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release,
7 emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New Jersey
8 recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51).

9 ²**[b.** If an inmate is at any time scheduled for release from a county
10 correctional facility in less than 30 days, the superintendent shall
11 comply with the provisions of subsection a. of this section at least 48
12 hours prior to the inmate's release.**]**²

13
14 ²7. (New section) There shall be annually appropriated to the
15 counties through the annual appropriations act such amounts as
16 shall be deemed necessary to cover the cost of the prescription
17 medicine required pursuant to the provisions of subsection i. of
18 section 6 of P.L. . c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
19 this bill).²

20
21 ²8. (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden, or
22 keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to the
23 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in
24 advance of the release of an inmate who has been incarcerated for
25 90 days or longer, the inmate's name, release date, and contact
26 information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a telephone
27 number or an email address.

28 b. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each
29 county correctional facility shall provide to the applicable
30 Department of Community Affairs regional non-profit inmate
31 reentry organization, in advance of the release of an inmate who has
32 been incarcerated for 90 days or longer, the information required in
33 subsection a. of this section unless the inmate requests that the
34 information not be forwarded.²

35
36 ¹**[6.]** ²**[7.1]** ^{9.}² (New section) a. The chief executive officer,
37 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide a
38 non-driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
39 Commission to each county inmate ²incarcerated for 90 days or
40 longer², free of charge, as soon as practicable, but not less than 10
41 days prior to the inmate's release from the county correctional facility.
42 The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue the
43 identification card and accept a former inmate's county correctional
44 facility identification card as two points for the purposes of applying
45 for the identification card.

46 b. An inmate's county correctional facility identification card
47 shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and

1 New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the date
2 of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to gain
3 access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible including,
4 but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

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

15
16 ¹[7.] ²[8.1] ^{10.2} (New section) a. As soon as practicable but not
17 less than 30 days prior to ²[an inmate's] the² release ²[from
18 incarceration] of an inmate incarcerated for 90 days or longer², the
19 chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional
20 facility shall ensure that an inmate is assisted with completing,
21 obtaining any required signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding
22 for processing to the Department of Human Services an online
23 application for enrollment in the Medicaid program, established
24 pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

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

33 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
34 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
35 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

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

42 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to accept
43 and process the online applications for Medicaid received from the
44 Department of Corrections pursuant to subsection a. of this 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 chief executive
47 officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall
48 ensure that the address of the appropriate regional non-profit inmate

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

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

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

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

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

18
19 ²11. (New section) a. The governing body of each county in
20 this State may, by duly adopted ordinance or resolution, appoint a
21 county reentry coordinator who shall be responsible for evaluating
22 the needs of, and navigating the appropriate treatment and services
23 for, each inmate in a county correctional facility in this State.

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

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

31 (2) determine whether the inmate is eligible to apply for federal,
32 State, and county public assistance program benefits including, but
33 not limited to, State and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
34 Program benefits, Medicaid, and housing assistance program
35 benefits;

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (3) providing information concerning available substance use
13 disorder treatment and services including, but not limited to,
14 medication-assisted treatment. The county reentry coordinator shall
15 assist the inmate with scheduling and otherwise accessing
16 appropriate treatment and services upon the inmate's release from
17 the facility;

18 (4) providing information concerning relevant social services
19 and reentry and rehabilitative programs including, but not limited
20 to, the WorkFirst NJ Substance Abuse Initiative. The county
21 reentry coordinator shall assist the inmate with completing
22 applications for and otherwise accessing appropriate services and
23 programming upon the inmate's release from the facility;

24 (5) providing information concerning services provided by the
25 State's One-Stop Career Centers. The county reentry coordinator
26 shall schedule appointments for the inmate to meet with
27 representatives from the career center and shall register the inmate
28 for participation in any mandatory programming upon the inmate's
29 release from the facility;

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

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

38 e. The county reentry coordinator also shall:

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

42 (2) ensure, to the best of the coordinator's ability, and
43 conditioned on discharge information provided by the
44 Administrative Office of the Courts, that each inmate is released
45 from custody during regular business hours so that the inmate may
46 access appropriate treatment and services immediately upon release;
47 and

1 (3) ensure each inmate at the time of discharge is provided with
2 the prescription medication required pursuant to paragraph (9) of
3 subsection a. of section 6 of P.L. c. (pending before the
4 Legislature as this bill).²

5
6 ²12. (New section) a. The county reentry coordinator shall
7 record data regarding: the number of inmates who are offered
8 services pursuant to section 10 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
9 before the Legislature as this bill); the number of inmates who
10 accept the services offered; the types of services provided to each
11 inmate who accepts the services offered; the race, gender, ethnicity,
12 and age of each inmate; a record of any crimes committed by
13 inmates who are released from the facility and the types of crimes
14 committed for a period of three years following the inmate's
15 release; and the number of inmates who were not released, and the
16 reasons why they were not released, from a county correctional
17 facility during regular business hours.

18 b. The data shall be analyzed to determine whether the rates
19 and nature of rearrests and convictions differ according to whether
20 an inmate received services in accordance with section 10 of
21 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
22 The county reentry coordinator shall annually prepare and transmit
23 the findings to the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of
24 each county correctional facility, as appropriate; the superintendent,
25 director, or other chief administrative officer of the County Board
26 of Social Services or welfare agency, as appropriate; the governing
27 body of the county in which the correctional facility is located; and
28 the Commissioner of Corrections.²

29
30 ²13. (New section) The county reentry coordinator shall, in
31 collaboration with the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of
32 a county correctional facility, develop peer counseling programs in
33 the county correctional facility that support the treatment of county
34 inmates with substance use disorders. The warden, director, or
35 administrator may additionally develop initiatives to provide
36 inmates in the custody of the county correctional facility with
37 access to professional substance use disorder counseling.²

38
39 ²14. (New section) a. The county reentry coordinator shall
40 meet regularly with community stakeholders who may offer
41 guidance for evaluating the needs of and providing services to
42 inmates in county correctional facilities including, but not limited
43 to:

- 44 (1) the Commissioner of Corrections, or a designee;
45 (2) the Commissioner of Human Services, or a designee;
46 (3) the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of the county
47 correctional facility;

1 (4) the superintendent, director, or other chief administrative
2 officer of the County Board of Social Services or welfare agency, as
3 appropriate;

4 (5) the county human services director, or a designee;

5 (6) the county mental health administrator, or a designee;

6 (7) the president of a county community college, or a designee;

7 (8) reentry services providers in the county;

8 (9) substance use disorder treatment providers in the county;

9 and

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

12 b. Based on the guidance received during the meetings
13 conducted pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the county
14 reentry coordinator shall:

15 (1) establish best practices for preparing county inmates for
16 release;

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

22 (3) make appropriate recommendations to the county
23 correctional facility and County Board of Social Services or welfare
24 agency with respect to preparing county inmates for successful
25 reentry into the community and reducing recidivism.²

26
27 ²15. There shall be annually appropriated through the annual
28 appropriations act such amounts as shall be deemed necessary to
29 implement the provisions of sections 11 through 14 of P.L. ____.
30 c. (C. ____ through C. ____) (pending before the Legislature as this
31 bill) concerning the county reentry coordinator.²

32
33 ¹[8.] ²[9.1] 16.² (New section) An inmate released from a
34 State or county correctional facility shall be authorized to use the
35 address of a nonprofit inmate reentry organization approved by the
36 Department of Community Affairs as a mailing address in an
37 application for benefits under the:

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

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

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

45
46 ¹[9.] ²[10.1] 17.² Section 5 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-48) is
47 amended to read as follows:

- 1 5. a. Only those persons who are United States citizens or
2 eligible aliens shall be eligible for benefits under the Work First
3 New Jersey program. Single adults or couples without dependent
4 children who are legal aliens who meet federal requirements and
5 have applied for citizenship, shall not receive benefits for more than
6 six months unless (1) they attain citizenship, or (2) they have passed
7 the English language and civics components for citizenship, and are
8 awaiting final determination of citizenship by the federal
9 Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- 10 b. The following persons shall not be eligible for assistance and
11 shall not be considered to be members of an assistance unit:
- 12 (1) non-needy caretakers, except that the eligibility of a
13 dependent child shall not be affected by the income or resources of
14 a non-needy caretaker;
- 15 (2) Supplemental Security Income recipients, except for the
16 purposes of receiving emergency assistance benefits pursuant to
17 section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51);
- 18 (3) illegal aliens;
- 19 (4) other aliens who are not eligible aliens;
- 20 (5) a person absent from the home who is incarcerated in a
21 federal, State, county or local corrective facility or under the
22 custody of correctional authorities, except as provided by regulation
23 of the commissioner;
- 24 (6) a person who: is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or
25 confinement after conviction, under the laws of the jurisdiction
26 from which the person has fled, for a crime or an attempt to commit
27 a crime which is a felony or a high misdemeanor under the laws of
28 the jurisdiction from which the person has fled; or is violating a
29 condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state law;
- 30 (7) **【**a person convicted on or after August 22, 1996 under
31 federal or state law of any offense which is classified as a felony or
32 crime, as appropriate, under the laws of the jurisdiction involved
33 and which has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a
34 controlled substance as defined in section 102(6) of the federal
35 "Controlled Substances Act" (21 U.S.C. s.802 (6)), who would
36 otherwise be eligible for general public assistance pursuant to
37 P.L.1947, c.156 (C.44:8-107 et seq.); except that such a person who
38 is convicted of any such offense which has as an element the
39 possession or use only of such a controlled substance may be
40 eligible for Work First New Jersey general public assistance
41 benefits if the person enrolls in or has completed a licensed
42 residential or outpatient drug treatment program. An otherwise
43 eligible individual who has a past drug conviction shall be eligible
44 for general public assistance without enrolling in or completing a
45 drug treatment program if either: (1) an appropriate treatment
46 program is not available; or (2) the person is excused from enrolling
47 in a treatment program for good cause pursuant to regulation.

1 Eligibility for benefits for a person entering a licensed drug
2 treatment program which does not operate in a State correctional
3 facility or county jail shall commence upon the person's enrollment
4 in the drug treatment program, and shall continue during the
5 person's active participation in, and upon completion of, the drug
6 treatment program, except that during the person's active
7 participation in a drug treatment program and the first 60 days after
8 completion of a drug treatment program, the commissioner shall
9 provide for testing of the person to determine if the person is free of
10 any controlled substance. If the person is determined to not be free
11 of any controlled substance during the 60-day period, the person's
12 eligibility for benefits pursuant to this paragraph shall be
13 terminated; except that this provision shall not apply to the use of
14 prescription drugs by a person who is actively participating in a
15 drug treatment program, as prescribed by the drug treatment
16 program. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to carry out the
17 provisions of this paragraph, which shall include the criteria for
18 determining active participation in and completion of a drug
19 treatment program.

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

25 Cash benefits, less a personal needs allowance, for a person
26 receiving general public assistance benefits under the Work First
27 New Jersey program who is enrolled in and actively participating in
28 a licensed drug treatment program shall be issued directly to the
29 drug treatment provider to offset the cost of treatment. Upon
30 completion of the drug treatment program, the cash benefits shall be
31 then issued to the person. In the case of a delay in issuing cash
32 benefits to a person receiving Work First New Jersey general public
33 assistance benefits who has completed the drug treatment program,
34 the drug treatment provider shall transmit to the person those funds
35 received on behalf of that person after completion of the drug
36 treatment program; ~~](Deleted by amendment, (P.L. _____, c. _____)~~
37 (pending before the Legislature as this bill

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

43 (9) a person who intentionally makes a false or misleading
44 statement or misrepresents, conceals or withholds facts for the
45 purpose of receiving benefits, who shall be ineligible for benefits
46 for a period of six months for the first violation, 12 months for the
47 second violation, and permanently for the third violation.

1 c. A person who makes a false statement with the intent to
2 qualify for benefits and by reason thereof receives benefits for
3 which the person is not eligible is guilty of a crime of the fourth
4 degree.

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

8 (1) needy persons and their dependent children domiciled in
9 New Jersey for the purposes of receiving benefits under the Work
10 First New Jersey program and food assistance under the federal
11 "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-234 (7 U.S.C. s.2011
12 et seq.); and

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

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

17

18 ²**[11]** ¹⁸². (New section) The Governor shall appoint an
19 independent investigator to evaluate the Commissioner of
20 Correction's compliance with the provisions of ²P.L.2019, c.282;
21 P.L.2019, c.288; P.L.2019, c.364;² P.L.2020, c.45^{2,2}; and ²**[this act]**
22 P.L. c. ² (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Within
23 six months of the effective date of this act, the independent
24 investigator shall report findings and conclusions to the Governor
25 and the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
26 (C.52:14-19.1).¹

27

28 ¹**[10.]** ²**[12.1]** ¹⁹² This act shall take effect immediately.