

[Third 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)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

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District 33 (Hudson)

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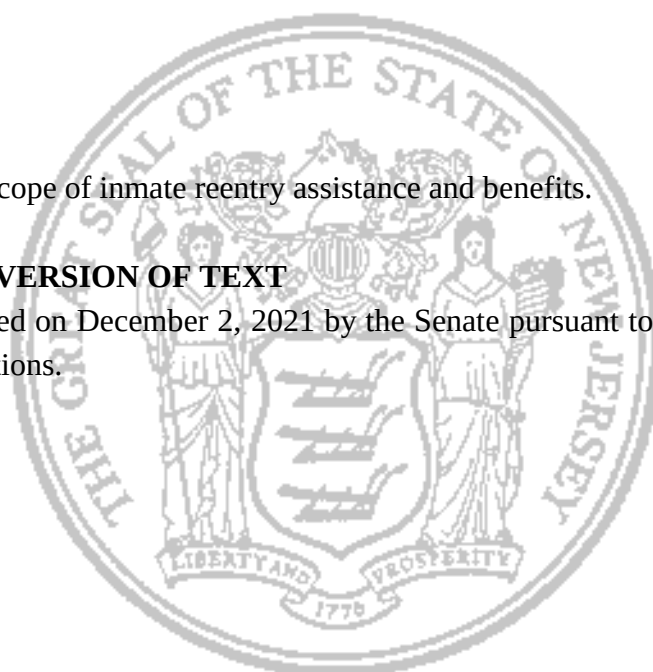
**Senators Pou, Ruiz, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey,
Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie and Senator
Turner**

SYNOPSIS

Expands scope of inmate reentry assistance and benefits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended on December 2, 2021 by the Senate pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.



(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
 8 read as follows:

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

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

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

17 c. General written information on the availability of programs,
 18 including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in
 19 removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in
 20 vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not
 21 limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted
 22 Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the
 23 certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-
 24 7 et seq.);

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

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

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

32 g. ¹**[A copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was**
 33 **born in New Jersey;]** ³**[(Deleted by amendment, P.L. _____, c. _____)**
 34 **(pending before the Legislature as this bill)]¹** A copy of the inmate's
 35 birth certificate, as issued by the Department of Health, Office of Vital
 36 Statistics, if the inmate was born in New Jersey;³

37 h. Assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;

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

39 j. A **[two-week]** ²**[three-month]** ³**[30-day²]** two-week³
 40 supply of prescription medication ³**[², a three-month supply of**
 41 long-acting injectables,²]³ and ²,² to the extent consistent with
 42 clinical guidelines, ³a two-week prescription order with³ ²[an
 43 additional 30 day prescription order and]² two additional refills
 44 ²**[¹or long-acting injectables¹]²;**

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.

³Senate amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations December 2, 2021.

1 k. General written information concerning child support,
2 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information
3 on how to seek child support payments and information on where to
4 seek services regarding child support, child custody, and
5 establishing parentage; and

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

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

18 ³m. A benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining
19 benefits under the:

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

22 (2) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
23 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
24 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

25 (3) Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
26 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for
27 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of
28 release, emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New
29 Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-
30 51).]³

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

32
33 ¹2. (New section) The Commissioner of Corrections shall
34 ³[provide to] offer³ each inmate ³, upon request,³ at least ³[60]
35 180³ days prior to release from a State correctional facility ³,
36 assistance with obtaining³ a copy of the inmate's birth certificate ³,
37 as issued by the Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics,³ if
38 the inmate was born in New Jersey.¹ ³The commissioner shall
39 ensure that all inmates who were born in New Jersey are notified of
40 their ability to obtain the commissioner's assistance in accessing
41 their birth certificates pursuant to this section.³

42
43 ¹[2.] 3.¹ Section 2 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.15) is
44 amended to read as follows:

45 2. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide a non-
46 driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
47 Commission to each inmate, free of charge, as soon as practicable,

1 but not less than 10 days prior to the inmate's release from a State
2 correctional facility. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
3 shall issue the identification card and accept a former inmate's
4 Department of Corrections identification card as two points for the
5 purposes of applying for the identification card.

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

12 **【Whenever the】** c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection
13 b. of this section, whenever Motor Vehicle Commission agencies
14 are closed during a declared public health emergency, pursuant to
15 the "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-
16 1 et seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251
17 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.), or both, the inmate's Department of
18 Corrections identification card shall be accepted by all State,
19 county, and municipal agencies and New Jersey **【nonprofits】**
20 nonprofit organizations in a manner as to allow the **【releasee】**
21 released inmate to gain access to services for which **【they are】** the
22 inmate is deemed eligible for the duration of the public health
23 emergency.

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

25
26 **¹【3.】4.¹** Section 4 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.16) is
27 amended to read as follows:

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

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

43 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
44 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
45 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

46 (2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
47 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include , for

1 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of
2 release, the application for emergency assistance benefits issued to
3 Work First New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997,
4 c.14 (C.44:10-51).

5 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to
6 accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received
7 from the Department of Corrections pursuant to subsection a. of this
8 section.

9 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
10 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the Commissioner
11 of Corrections shall ³, with the inmate's consent, ³ ensure that the
12 address of ³[the] ³ ²[appropriate] ³[applicable Department of
13 Community Affairs ² regional non-profit inmate] ³ reentry
14 organization is used for the purposes of establishing proof of
15 residence to meet any applicable eligibility requirements. ³The
16 commissioner shall ensure that all inmates who are unable to identify a
17 residence at the time of application for benefits are educated on their
18 ability to select the address of the reentry organization as a residential
19 address pursuant to this subsection. ³

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

22 (1) accept the address of the ²[appropriate] ³[applicable
23 Department of Community Affairs ² regional non-profit inmate] ³
24 reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify a
25 residence at the time of application for benefits ³in accordance with
26 subsection d. of this section ³ ; and

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

29 f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for ³[benefits under
30 the Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's
31 certification of income, resources, and family composition, and
32 based on other information immediately available at the time of
33 application, shall be deemed presumptively eligible for] ³ Work
34 First New Jersey assistance ³[and] shall be screened for ³
35 immediate need assistance ³[and shall receive this assistance for a
36 period of not less than 45 days following the inmate's release from
37 incarceration] ³ .

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

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

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

b. The commissioner shall provide to ¹~~the applicable regional~~ ²~~each~~ ³~~the applicable Department of Community Affairs regional~~ ² ~~non-profit inmate~~ ³ ~~reentry organization~~ ³ ~~selected as a residential address pursuant to subsection d. of section 4 of this bill~~ ³ ²~~approved by the Department of Community Affairs~~ ¹ ², in advance of an inmate's release, the information required in subsection a. of this section ¹~~unless the inmate requests that the information not be forwarded~~ ¹.

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

¹~~5.~~ ¹ (New section) ²~~a.~~ ² The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to each inmate ²~~incarcerated for 90 days or longer~~ ² at least 30 days prior to release from a facility:

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

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

²~~(3)~~ ² ~~c.~~ ² general written information on the availability of programs, including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-7 et seq.);

²~~(4)~~ ² ~~d.~~ ² a detailed written record of the inmate's participation in educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

²~~(5)~~ ² ~~e.~~ ² a written accounting of the fines, assessments, surcharges, restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any other obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;

²~~(6)~~ ² ~~f.~~ ² a copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was born in New Jersey;

²~~(7)~~ ² ~~g.~~ ² assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;

²~~(8)~~ ² ~~h.~~ ² a one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;

²~~(9)~~ ² ~~i.~~ ² a ²~~three-month~~ ³~~30-day~~ ² ~~two-week~~ ³ supply of prescription medication ³~~2~~, ²~~a three-month supply of long-acting injectables.~~ ³ ² and, to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, ³~~a two-week prescription order with~~ ³ ²~~an additional 30 day prescription order and~~ ² ² ~~two additional refills~~ ² ¹~~or long-acting injectables~~ ¹ ²;

²~~(10)~~ ² ~~j.~~ ² general written information concerning child support, including child support payments owed by the inmate, information

1 on how to seek child support payments and information on where to
2 seek services regarding child support, child custody, and
3 establishing parentage; ³and³

4 ²[(11)] k.² a medical discharge summary, which shall include
5 instructions on how to obtain from the superintendent a copy of the
6 inmate's full medical record; upon request from the inmate, the
7 superintendent shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical
8 record in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate; the
9 superintendent shall comply with rules and regulations, adopted
10 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
11 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), that ensure that these records are
12 expeditiously and securely provided in a manner consistent with the
13 provision of medical records by other providers ³]; and

14 ²[(12)] l.² a benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining
15 benefits under the:

16 ²[(a)] (1)² Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968,
17 c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);

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

21 ²[(c)] (3)² Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant
22 to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for
23 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of
24 release, emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New
25 Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-
26 51)]³.

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

31
32 ²7. (New section) There shall be annually appropriated to the
33 counties through the annual appropriations act such amounts as
34 shall be deemed necessary to cover the cost of the prescription
35 medicine required pursuant to the provisions of subsection i. of
36 section 6 of P.L. . c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
37 this bill).²

38
39 ²8. (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden, or
40 keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to the
41 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in
42 advance of the release of an inmate who has been incarcerated for
43 90 days or longer, the inmate's name, release date, and contact
44 information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a telephone
45 number or an email address.

46 b. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each
47 county correctional facility shall ³, with the inmate's consent,³

1 provide to the ³applicable Department of Community Affairs
2 regional non-profit inmate ³reentry organization ³selected as a
3 residential address pursuant to subsection d. of section 4 of this bill ³ ,
4 in advance of the release of an inmate who has been incarcerated
5 for 90 days or longer, the information required in subsection a. of
6 this section unless the inmate requests that the information not be
7 forwarded. ²

8
9 ¹[6.] ²[7.] ¹9. ² (New section) a. ³The chief executive officer,
10 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide
11 a non-driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor
12 Vehicle Commission to each county inmate ²incarcerated for 90
13 days or longer ², free of charge, as soon as practicable, but not less
14 than 10 days prior to the inmate's release from the county
15 correctional facility. ³ The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
16 shall ³issue the identification card and ³ accept a former inmate's
17 county correctional facility identification card as two points for the
18 purposes of applying for ³the ³a non-driver ³ identification card.

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

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

36
37 ¹[7.] ²[8.] ¹10. ² (New section) a. As soon as practicable but
38 not less than 30 days prior to ²[an inmate's] the ² release ²[from
39 incarceration] of an inmate incarcerated for 90 days or longer ², the
40 chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county
41 correctional facility shall ensure that an inmate is assisted with
42 completing, obtaining any required signatures or authorizations for,
43 and forwarding for processing to the Department of Human
44 Services an online application for enrollment in the Medicaid
45 program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-
46 1 et seq.).

1 b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this
2 section, the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper also shall
3 ensure that ³~~the~~ such³ inmate is assisted in completing, obtaining
4 any required signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding for
5 processing to the appropriate county welfare agency or board of
6 social services, as soon as practicable but not less than 30 days prior
7 to an inmate's release from incarceration, online applications for
8 enrollment in the following programs:

9 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
10 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
11 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

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

18 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to
19 accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received
20 from the ³~~Department of Corrections~~ county correctional
21 facilities³ pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

22 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
23 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the chief executive
24 officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility ³,
25 with the inmate's consent,³ shall ensure that the address of the
26 ³~~appropriate regional non-profit inmate~~³ reentry organization is
27 used for the purposes of establishing proof of residence to meet any
28 applicable eligibility requirements. ³The chief executive officer,
29 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall ensure that
30 all inmates incarcerated for 90 days or longer are educated on their
31 ability to select a reentry organization as a residential address pursuant
32 to this subsection.³

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

35 (1) accept the address of the ³~~appropriate regional non-profit~~
36 ~~inmate~~³ reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to
37 identify a residence at the time of application for benefits; and

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

40 f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for ³~~benefits under~~
41 the Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's
42 certification of income, resources, and family composition, and
43 based on other information immediately available at the time of
44 application, shall be deemed presumptively eligible for³ Work
45 First New Jersey assistance ³~~and~~ shall be screened for³ immediate
46 need assistance ³~~and~~ shall receive this assistance for a period of

1 not less than 45 days following the inmate's release from
2 incarceration¹³.

3
4 ²11. (New section) a. The governing body of each county in
5 this State may, by duly adopted ordinance or resolution, appoint a
6 county reentry coordinator who shall be responsible for evaluating
7 the needs of, and navigating the appropriate treatment and services
8 for, each inmate in a county correctional facility in this State.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (2) providing information concerning, and assistance in
37 completing, applications for appropriate State and county public
38 assistance program benefits which shall include, but not be limited
39 to, State and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
40 benefits, Medicaid, and housing assistance program benefits. The
41 county reentry coordinator shall make every effort to ensure that the
42 inmate is actively enrolled in appropriate programming upon or as
43 soon as practicable following the inmate's release from the facility;

44 (3) providing information concerning available substance use
45 disorder treatment and services including, but not limited to,
46 medication-assisted treatment. The county reentry coordinator shall
47 assist the inmate with scheduling and otherwise accessing

1 appropriate treatment and services upon the inmate's release from
2 the facility;

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

9 (5) providing information concerning services provided by the
10 State's One-Stop Career Centers. The county reentry coordinator
11 shall schedule appointments for the inmate to meet with
12 representatives from the career center and shall register the inmate
13 for participation in any mandatory programming upon the inmate's
14 release from the facility;

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

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

23 e. The county reentry coordinator also shall:

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

27 (2) ensure, to the best of the coordinator's ability, and
28 conditioned on discharge information provided by the
29 Administrative Office of the Courts, that each inmate is released
30 from custody during regular business hours so that the inmate may
31 access appropriate treatment and services immediately upon release;
32 and

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

37 ³f. The county reentry coordinator shall consult and coordinate
38 with the county board of social services or welfare agency, as
39 appropriate, when providing information or assistance with respect
40 to a benefit or service administered by the board or welfare
41 agency.³

42

43 ²12. (New section) a. The county reentry coordinator shall
44 record data regarding: the number of inmates who are offered
45 services pursuant to section 10 of P.L. ____, c. ____ (C. ____) (pending
46 before the Legislature as this bill); the number of inmates who
47 accept the services offered; the types of services provided to each

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

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

19
20 ²13. (New section) The county reentry coordinator shall, in
21 collaboration with the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of
22 a county correctional facility, develop peer counseling programs in
23 the county correctional facility that support the treatment of county
24 inmates with substance use disorders. The warden, director, or
25 administrator may additionally develop initiatives to provide
26 inmates in the custody of the county correctional facility with
27 access to professional substance use disorder counseling.²

28
29 ²14. (New section) a. The county reentry coordinator shall
30 meet ³【regularly】 annually³ with community stakeholders who may
31 offer guidance for evaluating the needs of and providing services to
32 inmates in county correctional facilities including, but not limited
33 to:

34 (1) the Commissioner of Corrections, or a designee;
35 (2) the Commissioner of Human Services, or a designee;
36 (3) the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of the county
37 correctional facility;

38 (4) the superintendent, director, or other chief administrative
39 officer of the County Board of Social Services or welfare agency, as
40 appropriate;

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

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

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

44 (8) reentry services providers in the county;

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

46 and

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

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

6 (1) establish best practices for preparing county inmates for
7 release;

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

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

17
18 ²15. There shall be annually appropriated through the annual
19 appropriations act such amounts as shall be deemed necessary to
20 implement the provisions of sections 11 through 14 of P.L. ____.
21 c. (C. ____ through C. ____) (pending before the Legislature as this
22 bill) concerning the county reentry coordinator.²
23

24 ¹~~[8.]~~ ²~~[9.1]~~ 16.² (New section) An inmate released from a
25 State or county correctional facility shall be authorized to use the
26 address of a ³~~[nonprofit inmate]~~³ reentry organization ³~~[approved~~
27 by the Department of Community Affairs]³ as a mailing address in
28 an application for benefits under the:

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

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

34 c. Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
35 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.) ³, provided the inmate consents
36 to the use of the reentry organization's address as their mailing
37 address³.
38

39 ¹~~[9.]~~ ²~~[10.1]~~ 17.² Section 5 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-48) is
40 amended to read as follows:

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

1 awaiting final determination of citizenship by the federal
2 Immigration and Naturalization Service.

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

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

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

11 (3) illegal aliens;

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

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

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

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

41 Eligibility for benefits for a person entering a licensed drug
42 treatment program which does not operate in a State correctional
43 facility or county jail shall commence upon the person's enrollment
44 in the drug treatment program, and shall continue during the
45 person's active participation in, and upon completion of, the drug
46 treatment program, except that during the person's active
47 participation in a drug treatment program and the first 60 days after
48 completion of a drug treatment program, the commissioner shall

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

47 (1) needy persons and their dependent children domiciled in
48 New Jersey for the purposes of receiving benefits under the Work

1 First New Jersey program and food assistance under the federal
2 "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-234 (7 U.S.C. s.2011
3 et seq.); and

4 (2) single persons and married couples without dependent
5 children domiciled in New Jersey for the purposes of receiving food
6 assistance under Pub.L.110-234.
7 (cf: P.L.2016, c.69, s.1)
8

9 ³**[²11]** ¹⁸². (New section) The Governor shall appoint an
10 independent investigator to evaluate the Commissioner of
11 Correction's compliance with the provisions of ²P.L.2019, c.282;
12 P.L.2019, c.288; P.L.2019, c.364;² P.L.2020, c.45²; ²and ²**[this act]**
13 P.L. c. ² (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Within
14 six months of the effective date of this act, the independent
15 investigator shall report findings and conclusions to the Governor
16 and the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
17 (C.52:14-19.1).¹³
18

19 ¹**[10.]** ²**[12.¹]** ³**[19.²]** ¹⁸.³ This act shall take effect
20 immediately.