

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 53**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

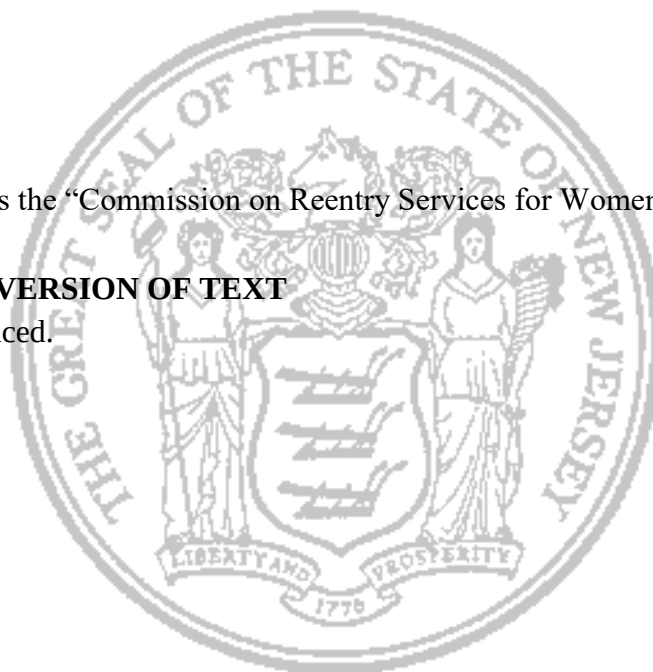
**Senators Singleton, Greenstein, Pou, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson,
Vainieri Huttie, Speight, Carter, Timberlake, Assemblyman Verrelli,
Assemblywomen McKnight, Jasey and Swain**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the “Commission on Reentry Services for Women.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/18/2020)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** establishing the “Commission on
2 Reentry Services for Women.”

3
4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
5 *General Assembly concurring):*

6
7 1. There is established the “Commission on Reentry Services for
8 Women.” The commission shall consist of the following 15
9 members:

10 a. six members to be appointed by the President of the Senate:

11 (1) a representative of a women’s rights organization;

12 (2) a representative of the New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic
13 Violence;

14 (3) an attorney with expertise in prisoner reentry issues;

15 (4) a representative of an organization whose members provide
16 mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for
17 women;

18 (5) a representative of the employment and training industry, who
19 by experience or training has expertise in prisoner reentry issues; and

20 (6) a physician with experience in women’s health issues and
21 inmate health issues; and

22 b. five members to be appointed by the Speaker of the General
23 Assembly:

24 (1) a representative of the Women’s Prison Association;

25 (2) a representative of a women’s healthcare organization;

26 (3) a representative of the Women’s Health Institute of Rutgers
27 Robert Wood Johnson Medical School;

28 (4) a person with expertise in women’s health; and

29 (5) a representative of the law enforcement community; and

30 c. four members to be appointed as follows:

31 (1) two representatives of reentry programs, one of whom shall
32 be appointed by the President of the Senate and one of whom shall
33 be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and

34 (2) two representatives from the business industry, one of whom
35 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and one of whom
36 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

37
38 2. a. The commission shall organize within 30 days of the
39 appointment of its members. The commission shall elect a
40 chairperson from among its members, and the chairperson shall select
41 a secretary who need not be a member of the commission.

42 b. The commission may meet at the call of its chairperson at
43 times and in the places it may deem appropriate and necessary to
44 fulfill its duties, and may conduct public hearings at any place it shall
45 designate.

46 c. The commission may request at these hearings the appearance
47 of officials of any State agency or political subdivision of the State
48 and may solicit testimony of interested groups and the general public.

1 d. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
2 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
3 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
4 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes, and to
5 employ stenographic and clerical assistance and incur traveling and
6 other miscellaneous expenses necessary to perform its duties, within
7 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for
8 its purposes.

9 e. The members of the commission shall serve without
10 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses
11 incurred in the performance of their duties to the extent that funds are
12 made available for that purpose.

13 f. Five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum
14 for the transaction of business.

15

16 3. The commission shall examine issues relating to women
17 prisoner reentry, including, but not limited to, identifying physical
18 and psychological hardships endured while incarcerated that may
19 impede successful reentry, identifying specific services that are
20 necessary for successful reentry, identifying current obstacles to
21 women prisoners receiving these services, and proposing solutions to
22 remove these obstacles. The commission specifically shall examine:

23 a. the quality and quantity of female hygiene products disbursed
24 to female prisoners;

25 b. how childbirth occurs for female prisoners while incarcerated;

26 c. the amount of time allowed for a mother to bond with her
27 child birthed in prison;

28 d. technological advances and their utilization in visitation
29 between mothers and their children, including, but not limited to,
30 video conferencing;

31 e. whether the crime committed was related to a domestic
32 violence situation in which the woman was the victim;

33 f. aligning formerly incarcerated females with essential support
34 services in order to better care for their children;

35 g. the psychological profile of the female prisoner, including the
36 psychological health of the female and methods to minimize
37 psychological damage;

38 h. housing, including halfway houses and residential housing;

39 i. education and training;

40 j. employment opportunities and workforce development;

41 k. addiction and substance use disorder treatment, including but
42 not limited to, drug treatment for inmates released from State and
43 county correctional facilities, the length of this drug treatment, and
44 access to medication assisted treatment, appropriate 12-step
45 programs, and intensive outpatient programs;

46 l. medical and mental health treatment;

47 m. access to legal assistance and current legal restrictions that
48 create barriers to successful reentry;

- 1 n. integration of corrections, parole, and reentry, including the
- 2 use of parole and supervision; and
- 3 o. coordination with faith-based services.
- 4
- 5 4. The commission shall prepare and submit a report of its
- 6 findings and recommendations, including legislative proposals, to the
- 7 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
- 8 19.1), to the Legislature, no later than 18 months after the
- 9 organizational meeting of the commission. The commission shall
- 10 expire upon submission of this report.
- 11
- 12 5. This concurrent resolution shall take effect immediately.
- 13
- 14

STATEMENT

17 This concurrent resolution establishes a 15-member “Commission
18 on Reentry Services for Women.” The commission is charged with
19 examining issues relating to women prisoner reentry including, but
20 not limited to, identifying physical and psychological hardships
21 endured while incarcerated that may impede successful reentry,
22 identifying specific services that are necessary for successful reentry,
23 identifying current obstacles to female prisoners receiving these
24 services, and proposing solutions to remove these obstacles.

25 The commission is to be comprised of the following members as
26 appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
27 General Assembly: a representative of a women’s rights
28 organization; a representative of the New Jersey Coalition to End
29 Domestic Violence; an attorney with expertise in prisoner reentry
30 issues; a physician with experience in women’s health issues and
31 inmate health issues; a representative of an organization whose
32 members provide mental health and substance use disorder treatment
33 services for women; a representative of the employment and training
34 industry, who by experience or training has expertise in prisoner
35 reentry issues; a representative of the Women’s Prison Association;
36 a representative of a women’s healthcare organization; a
37 representative of the Women’s Health Institute of Rutgers Robert
38 Wood Johnson Medical School; a person with expertise in women’s
39 health; a representative of the law enforcement community; two
40 representatives of reentry programs; and two representatives from the
41 business industry.

42 The concurrent resolution specifically requires the commission to
43 examine:

- 44 • the quality and quantity of hygiene products disbursed to
- 45 female prisoners;
- 46 • how childbirth occurs for female prisoners while incarcerated;
- 47 • the amount of time allowed for a mother to bond with her
- 48 child birthed in prison;

- 1 • technological advances and their utilization in visitation
- 2 between mothers and their children, such as video conferencing;
- 3 • women whose crimes were related to a domestic violence
- 4 situation in which they were the victim;
- 5 • aligning formerly incarcerated females with essential support
- 6 services in order to better care for their children;
- 7 • the psychological profile of the female prisoner, including the
- 8 psychological health of female prisoners and methods to minimize
- 9 psychological damage;
- 10 • housing, including halfway houses and residential housing;
- 11 • education and training;
- 12 • employment opportunities and workforce development;
- 13 • addiction and substance use disorder treatment, including
- 14 drug treatment for inmates released from State and county
- 15 correctional facilities; length of drug treatment and access to
- 16 medication assisted treatment, appropriate 12-step programs, and
- 17 intensive outpatient programs;
- 18 • medical and mental health treatment;
- 19 • access to legal assistance and current legal restrictions that
- 20 create barriers to successful reentry;
- 21 • integration of corrections, parole, and reentry, including the
- 22 use of parole and supervision; and
- 23 • coordination with faith-based services.
- 24 The commission is to prepare and submit a report of its findings
- 25 and recommendations, including legislative proposals, to the
- 26 Governor and the Legislature no later than 18 months after the
- 27 commission organizes. The commission is to expire upon submission
- 28 of the report.