



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

**Reentry: Offender Job Training and Employment
State Enactments
January 2017**

2016:

California A 2061

Relates to the Supervised Population Workforce Training Grant Program and vocational training, and apprenticeship opportunities for individuals on probation, mandatory supervision, and postrelease community supervision. Requires the Workforce Investment Board to give preference to a grant application that proposes participation by employers who have demonstrated interest in employing individuals in the supervised population. Requires related reports to the Legislature.

District of Columbia B 463

Establishes the Incarceration to Incorporation Entrepreneurship Program within the Department of Employment Services to educate, train, and assist returning citizens in becoming responsible entrepreneurs, requires the Department of Employment Services and the Department of Small and Local Business Development to operate the program, establishes the Incarceration to Incorporation Entrepreneurship Fund.

Florida H 5001

Makes state funding for reentry programs contingent on certain reporting requirements. Increases funding for employment-based reentry programs that provide pre-release planning in prison and/or support services upon release. Funds a program that provides treatment and employment services to individuals with severe and persistent mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system. Directs funds to the Home Builders Institute to provide certification, pre-apprenticeships, and job placement services to offenders on community supervision. Increases funding for employment-based reentry programs that provide pre-release planning in prison and/or support services upon release.

Massachusetts H 4450

Requires the program to include job placement training and wage subsidies to facilitate private sector employment and professional development. Instructs the labor and workforce development office to seek private sector funding and contract for an evaluation of the program.

Michigan H 5294

Expands an in-prison vocation trade and employment readiness program.

Minnesota S 2815

Authorizes Department of Corrections access to employment data for research of effectiveness of employment programming for offenders in the community.

New Jersey S 17

Makes appropriations for FY2016-17. Designates a portion of funds for parole programs to be used for administrative costs of operating mental health and addiction programming and another portion be used to contract for parolee employment services.

Ohio Exec. Order 3

Instructs the jobs and family services department to use \$100,000 of FY2017 TANF funds for the Truly Reaching You Prisoner Reentry Program designed to help parents re-integrate into society by assisting them with the development of trade skills, life skills and positive relationships to help them continue to succeed in their work and personal lives.

Virginia S 124

Requires the Department of Corrections to offer prisoners prior to release the opportunity to participate in a transition program that includes advice for job training opportunities, recommendations for living a law-abiding life, and financial literacy information. Requires the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to prescribe guidelines to govern these programs.

2015:

Alabama S 67

Creates a pilot program for small business development by ex-offenders.

Alabama S 271

Specifies that the trade school adjacent to the Frank Lee Youth Center in Elmore County give priority to training adult inmates.

Arkansas S 198

Allows the Department of Community Correction to participate in a private sector prison industry enhancement program.

Arkansas S 200

Allows for the administrative transfer of an inmate in the corrections department to the community corrections department to allow the inmate to participate in a reentry program of at least six months in length when the inmate is within 18 months of his or her projected release date.

California A 1093

Revises the criteria for the Supervised Population Workforce Training Grant program by authorizing a grant applicant to address the education and training needs of individuals who have some postsecondary education, or individuals who require basic education and training, or individuals in both categories. Allows the Workforce Investment Board to delegate responsibility for determining the sufficiency of a prior assessment to local boards. Provides the content for a related report to the Legislature.

Idaho S 1004

Revises provisions related to inmate incentive pay, relates to work at the direction of the board of correction in jobs not associated with correctional industry employment, provides that such compensation, if any, shall be in accordance with a graduated schedule based on quantity and quality of work performed and skill required for its performance, provides that no inmate so employed shall be considered an employee of the state or the board of corrections, or be eligible for workers' compensation.

Indiana S 173

Provides that the Department of Correction may establish a specialized vocational program to train qualified minimum security inmates in trades such as truck driving, manufacturing, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning that will pay a sustainable wage, requires a written application, requires the Superintendent to appoint a director at each facility having a program, requires the Department to report annually to the legislative council concerning the operation of the program.

Iowa S 497

Makes appropriations for FY2016. Permits the department to work with nonprofit or governmental entities to use inmate labor for work on rural cemeteries, historical landmarks and to clean up roads and water resources.

Louisiana HR 203

Requests that the Reentry Advisory Council identify strategies to facilitate successful reentry upon release including enhancing education, job skills and training for state inmates confined in local facilities. Requests that the council and the corrections department work to provide needed mental health care for all state inmates. Requests that the corrections secretary take necessary steps, in accordance with the council's recommendations, to make available the inmate rehabilitation and workforce development program for state inmates confined in local facilities. Requires the secretary, with the assistance of the council, to report all actions taken in accordance with this resolution (2015 HR 203) to the legislature.

Maryland S 582

Requires the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to establish under certain circumstances the Pilot Program for Small Business Development by Ex-offenders for certain purposes by a certain date, provides for the termination of the Program, authorizes the Department to coordinate with certain entities, provides for certain training and mentoring.

Massachusetts H 3650

Makes appropriations for FY2016 for the following purposes. Increases funding to the corrections department for reentry programming. Allows a transitional employment program to provide services to probationers and parolees. Allows funds for adult college transition services to be used by correctional facilities.

Nevada S 96

Revises provisions relating to prison industries, provides that moneys in the Fund for New Construction of Facilities for Prison Industries may be used to relocate, expand, upgrade, or modify an existing industry in the program to enhance or improve operations or security or to provide employment or training of offenders, to purchase or lease related equipment, to pay or fund operations of such industries, including staff and offenders wages, and to advertise and promote industry goods and services.

New Jersey S 2016

Appropriates funds for parolee employment services.

Oregon S969

Establishes the Task Force on Reentry, Employment and Housing, relates to persons with criminal convictions, provides for membership.

Puerto Rico S 1131

Amends Reorganization Plan 5 of 2010, directs the Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth to include a financial literacy program within the mandatory mathematics curriculum for students of middle and high school public education system, amends Law 47 of 1991 known as the Business Corporation Act of Training and Work, creates a National Alliance for Financial Empowerment for establishing and implementing initiatives and educational programs on financial responsibility in our correctional population.

2014:

Alaska SB 64

Creates a recidivism reduction program that includes employment, educational programming, vocational training, and community volunteer work, among other things.

California AB 1920

Amends the existing law that established the Board of State and Community Corrections to pool grant funds in order to deliver services to a broader target population and maximize the impact of state funds at the local level. Requires those services include job training and employment opportunities, and that the target population includes at-risk youth.

California A 2060

Establishes the Supervised Population Workforce Training Grant Program. Sets forth grant program eligibility criteria for counties. Provides that eligible uses for grant funds include vocational training, stipends for trainees, and apprenticeship opportunities for individuals on probation, mandatory supervision, and postrelease community supervision. Requires a specified report on the program.

Delaware S 20

Relates to the Department of Correction educational services, provides for a Prison Educational Working Group which will provide educational services for the Department of Correction, provides for career and technical education teachers, provides for transfer of funds to pay for the program.

Delaware HB 264

Enables the Department of Corrections to offer casual seasonal employment for up to six months to ex-offenders who demonstrate exceptional job skills while enrolled in a Level 4 or Level 5 vocational program, notwithstanding any prior felony convictions.

Georgia S 365

Requires the board of corrections to develop and implement programs to assist offenders with reentry. Authorizes the programs to provide education, vocational training, social and behavioral programs, substance abuse counseling, mentoring, financial planning, physical and mental health programs, and housing and federal assistance.

Idaho SB 1374

Provides additional powers and duties of the Division of Correctional Industries for providing inmate agricultural labor to private employers.

Iowa HB 2460

Appropriates funds for FY2015 to the Department of Workforce Development for development and administration of an offender reentry program to provide offenders with employment skills. Requires the Department of Workforce Development to work with the Department of Corrections to provide correctional staff with skills and resources to improve offenders' abilities to find and retain productive employment.

Louisiana HB 781

Creates the Offender Reentry Support Pilot Program, which includes an offender rehabilitation and accountability plan, an educational and job skills training plan, an employment preparation plan, and a post-release support plan.

Louisiana HR 78

Directs the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to review the feasibility of expanding the workforce development sentencing program to add additional judicial reentry courts, relates to a program to assist offenders in becoming more productive members of society upon their return to the community.

Louisiana HCR 204

Requests the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to align its job training programs across all prison systems to high-demand, high-wage jobs in a gender-neutral manner to assist women in attaining such jobs upon release.

2013:

California A 1019

Requires the superintendent of corrections education to set goals for inmate vocational education and to establish factors to be considered when creating technical education programs, including that the program aligns with the workforce needs of the state, the program increases the number of inmates who obtain an industry or apprenticeship board-recognized certification, or if the program will lead to employment in occupations with a livable wage.

Hawaii H 1279

Appropriates \$250,000 for FY 2013-2014 to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to incentivize partnerships and investment in programs designed to assist offenders in transitioning to the community in a safe, responsible manner, permits the department to receive donations for programs or holistic treatment and support services designed to enable ex-offenders to achieve self-sufficiency.

Maryland S 356 / H 698

Requires the Department of Business and Economic Development, the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to study and evaluate the feasibility of establishing a business development program for ex-offenders that provides business training and identifies nongovernmental funding sources.

Montana HB 68

Establishes a state wide reentry task force to develop and implement reentry programs for offenders who are within 12 months of release from prison and are at a high risk of recidivism. Lists task force membership. Requires the Department of Corrections to work with the reentry task force to examine and implement prison programs using community resources for reentry planning, develop partnerships with community based organizations to provide needed services for released inmates including mental health, chemical dependency, employment and housing, coordinate with community restorative justice programs to address victim concerns, collect data, conduct program evaluations, and develop findings and recommendations about reentry and recidivism.

Ohio H 59

Creates the office of enterprise development advisory board to advise and assist the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction with development of training programs and private sector jobs for inmates and offenders on post-prison supervision. Lists membership, compensation and operational procedures. Specifies duties of the board, including solicitation of business proposals

for training and employment programs, providing information to the office of enterprise development to support programs, making recommendations to the office of enterprise development on legislation, administrative rule or department policy, promoting public awareness, and assisting with program oversight. Eliminates the advisory council of directors for prison labor which had overlapping duties with the new enterprise development advisory board.

2012:

Alabama S 63

Adds providing prison industry projects - designed to place inmates in working and training environments in which they are able to acquire marketable skills and earn money to off-set the cost of incarceration, make payments for restitution to their victims, provide support for their families, and prepare for their release from prison - to the purposes of the prison industries programs. Authorizes the commissioner of Corrections to contract or enter into agreement with private individuals and entities to implement work-oriented rehabilitation programs in correctional facilities. Requires inmates to earn the prevailing wage for work of a similar nature in the private sector, of which up to 40 percent of the gross wage would be deposited into the Department of Corrections Special Revenue Fund to offset costs of the inmate's confinement and up to 40 percent of the wage would be distributed to comply with any order from a court. The remaining earnings will be deposited into the inmate's personal prison savings account.

Minnesota S 2084

Requires the corrections commissioner to set up a gardening program for inmates at each correctional facility where space and security allows for operation of a garden. States that the garden should aim to raise produce that can be used to feed inmates and any portion of the harvest that cannot be used to feed inmates should be donated to food shelves and charities.

2011:

Arkansas SB 806

Requires the Department of Labor to work in conjunction with other agencies, private sector, and labor organizations to promulgate rules for ex-offender placement and training programs in order to help facilitate the restoration of an ex-offender's responsibility and self-sufficiency. Requires that programs be intensive and focus on in-demand professional and service careers and vocations, information and computer technology jobs, medical technology jobs, and office administration. Requires that the programs award a Certificate of Completion to any person who completes the training, which signifies the person's competency to enter the workforce in the applicable field. Requires the Department of Correction to identify high-demand vocations and careers and create training and skills programs to prepare inmates for gainful employment upon release, including programs that address professional and service careers and vocations, information and computer technology, medical technology and office administration.

Idaho S 1030

Permits the state board of correction to provide research-based rehabilitative services, as resources permit, for incarcerated and community-based offenders. States rehabilitative services include behavioral modification, education, vocational education, sexual offenders, substance abuse, gender responsive programs and other programs that research supports reduction of risk for offender populations.

Oregon H 3309

Authorizes the corrections department to establish a pilot on-the-job training program for ex-offenders with the intent to provide training opportunities to ex-offenders who need it to secure employment, and for those already employed but in need of additional training to advance in their job or to prevent losing it. Requires the department to provide grants to and enter into agreements with counties to run the training programs. Permits the department to enter into agreements with public and private employers to provide training that: 1) provides knowledge/skills essential to the full and adequate performance of the job, and 2) is limited in duration as appropriate to the occupation the ex-offender is seeking. Stipulates that any employer entering into an agreement with a county or the department is responsible for hiring, paying and training the ex-offenders, but that the department must reimburse the employer, in an amount based on the ex-offender's wage or a stipend payable at the discretion of the department/county, for any extraordinary costs associated with training and additional supervision. Permits counties to designate a non-profit organization, staffing agency, community college or other qualified entity to manage the training. Requires the department to apply the following policies to the training programs: 1) each ex-offender must be assessed to determine whether s/he has the necessary work experience or training to meet a potential employer's minimum requirements or has special needs that may be a barrier to obtaining or retaining employment, and 2) that the training must reasonably be expected to last at least 6 weeks and provide 20 hours of work per week. Requires review, at least annually, of each employer's trainee retention to ensure the employer is meeting the requirements. Directs the department to adopt rules necessary to administer the training program, and requires the rules to be

consistent with the federal Workforce Investment Act. Permits the department to seek grants and other funding to carry out the training programs.

Puerto Rico S 1471

Creates a culinary skills program to broaden employment opportunities and rehabilitation of the correctional population.

2010:

Arizona S 1093

Continues the inmate Transition Program for five years, until July 1, 2018. Requires all inmates who receive compensation for inmate work programs to deposit 5% of their gross wages into the Transition Program Fund. Prohibits inmates convicted of sexual offenses, arson or driving under the influence from participating in the Transition Program. No longer permits entities contracted with to administer transition programs to determine inmate eligibility. Adds basic academic education, general equivalency diploma preparation and post-secondary education job training to the list of services contractors will provide to inmates. Requires contractors to provide liaison services to the department of corrections, department of health services, the governor's office, county probation department and community and faith-based organizations.

Colorado H 1112

Adds "vocational programs" and "readiness for integration into society" to the definition of a correctional education program. Increases from two years or more remaining to serve on a sentence expected to be released from custody within five years, as those inmates eligible to receive adult basic education. Requires the department of corrections to develop performance measures for each educational and vocational program, that include use of vocational skills assessment to determine the needs of inmates, use of a curriculum that is approved by the department of education or the state board for community colleges and occupational education, provide inmates training and competency in marketable skills that are relevant and likely to be in demand in the workplace. Requires the department of labor and employment to provide the department of corrections with data on current market trends and labor needs of the state to assist in providing appropriate educational and vocational programs. Requires the department of corrections to give priority, when transferring an inmate who is participating in a correctional education program to another facility, for placement in a comparable program. Adds charter schools, trade unions, private occupational schools, private businesses, department of labor and employment, and state and local governments to the list of entities which the department of corrections can contract with for correctional education programs.

Colorado H 1360

Adds "supporting the Division of Adult Parole in providing assistance to parolees to secure employment, housing, and other services to support their successful reintegration into the community while recognizing the need for public safety" to the duties of a community parole officer.

Florida S 370

Adds rehabilitative community reentry programs to provide services that assist offenders in successfully reentering the community to the list of programs and services that may be funded through community corrections. Such services may include, but are not limited to, assistance with housing, health care, education, substance abuse treatment, and employment, to the list of programs, services, and facilities that may be funded using community corrections funds.

Iowa S 2378

Instructs the department of corrections to establish guidelines and procedures to prioritize the availability of educational and vocational training for inmates based upon the goal of facilitating an inmate's successful release from a correctional institution. Requires development and implementation of reentry programs that include minority and gender-specific responsiveness, employment, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, housing, and family reintegration. Permits the use of inmate labor to upgrade and renovate local correctional facilities.

Iowa H 2522

Appropriates funds to the department of workforce development for the development and administration of an offender reentry program that provides offenders with employment skills. Instructs the department of workforce development to partner with the department of corrections to provide staff within the correctional facilities to improve offenders' abilities to find and retain productive employment.

Michigan S 1153

Instructs the department of corrections to contract with nonprofit organizations to establish or expand upon existing recycling programs in high-crime areas. Requires at least 45% of new hires be offenders reentering the community. Appropriates funds to establish a pilot program for the manufacturing of textiles and clothing in at least one state correctional facility.

North Carolina S 897

Authorizes the department of correction to contract with a community-based residential facility for a two-year pilot reentry program. Selected low-risk inmates may be housed at a community-based residential facility to participate in a range of services. Requires that funds appropriated for community college courses in prisons be used only for state prison inmates. Prioritizes the funding to first restore FTE for basic skills courses to the FY 2008-2009 level, then used for continuing education and courses related to job skills training. Prohibits the funds from being used for associate of arts, associate of science, or associate of general education degrees. Requires the Department of Correction and the Community Colleges System Office to report on the implementation of new funding structure. Requires all prison courses to be clearly tied to identified job skills, transition needs, or both.

Oklahoma HB 2998

Requires the creation of new and modification of existing reentry and treatment-based programs to better address parenting and life skills, family support, and employment skills. Instructs the department to develop partnerships within communities to assist in providing support services and employment opportunities upon release.

Puerto Rico H 936

Authorizes the use of prison labor for the performance of various tasks such as farming or construction, among others, as part of the process of prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.

South Carolina S 1154

Requires vocational and academic education and life skills assessments in reentry programming provided in cooperation with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Employment Security Commission, Alston Wilkes Society, and other private sector entities be based on evidence-based practices and criminal risk factors analysis.

NCSL Criminal Justice Program

Denver, Colorado

Ph.: (303) 364-7700 || E-mail: cj-info@ncsl.org

Statutes and bills may be edited or summarized; full text can be retrieved at:

<http://www.ncsl.org/aboutus/ncslservice/state-legislative-websites-directory.aspx>