



HB 0649

2003

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to restoration of civil rights; amending
3 ss. 940.061, 944.293, and 944.605, F.S.; requiring that
4 the Department of Corrections notify an offender, before
5 discharge from supervision, of procedures by which the
6 offender may apply for restoration of civil rights;
7 requiring that the department assist the offender in
8 completing forms required for restoration of civil rights;
9 requiring that the offender acknowledge by signature
10 receipt of such assistance; amending s. 944.705, F.S.;
11 requiring the department to include in its release-
12 orientation program instruction in the procedures for
13 applying for restoration of civil rights; providing an
14 effective date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18 Section 1. Section 940.061, Florida Statutes, is amended
19 to read:

20 940.061 Informing persons about executive clemency and
21 restoration of civil rights.--The Department of Corrections
22 shall inform and educate inmates and offenders on community
23 supervision about the restoration of civil rights and assist
24 eligible inmates and offenders on community supervision with the
25 completion of the application for the restoration of civil
26 rights. To document this notification, the department shall
27 obtain the signature of each offender before the offender's
28 discharge acknowledging receipt of assistance in completing the
29 forms.



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30 Section 2. Section 944.293, Florida Statutes, is amended
31 to read:

32 944.293 Initiation of restoration of civil rights.--With
33 respect to those persons convicted of a felony, the following
34 procedure shall apply: Prior to the time an offender is
35 discharged from supervision, an authorized agent of the
36 department shall obtain from the Governor the necessary
37 application and other forms required for the restoration of
38 civil rights. The authorized agent shall assist the offender in
39 completing these forms and shall ensure that the application and
40 all necessary material are forwarded to the Governor before the
41 offender is discharged from supervision. To document compliance
42 with this section, before an offender is discharged from
43 supervision, the department shall obtain the signature of the
44 offender acknowledging receipt of assistance in completing the
45 forms required for restoration of civil rights.

46 Section 3. Present subsection (6) of section 944.605,
47 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (7), and a new
48 subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

49 944.605 Inmate release; notification.--

50 (6) Before an inmate's release, the department shall
51 notify the inmate of the procedures necessary to apply for
52 restoration of civil rights. Pursuant to ss. 944.293 and 940.03,
53 the department shall obtain the signature of each inmate before
54 the inmate's release acknowledging receipt of assistance in
55 completing the forms.

56 Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 944.705, Florida
57 Statutes, is amended to read:

58 944.705 Release orientation program.--



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59 (2) The release orientation program instruction must
60 include, but is not limited to:

- 61 (a) Employment skills.
- 62 (b) Money management skills.
- 63 (c) Personal development and planning.
- 64 (d) Special needs.
- 65 (e) Community reentry concerns.
- 66 (f) Community reentry support.
- 67 (g) Procedures to apply for restoration of civil rights.
- 68 ~~(h)(g)~~ Any other appropriate instruction to ensure the
69 inmate's successful reentry into the community.

70 Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.