## Florida Senate - 2004

**By** Senator Bullard

	39-541-04
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to restoration of civil rights;
3	amending ss. 940.061, 944.293, and 944.605,
4	F.S.; requiring that the Department of
5	Corrections notify an offender, before
6	discharge from supervision, of procedures by
7	which the offender may apply for restoration of
8	civil rights; requiring that the department
9	assist the offender in completing forms
10	required for restoration of civil rights;
11	requiring that the offender acknowledge by
12	signature receipt of such assistance; amending
13	s. 944.705, F.S.; requiring the department to
14	include in its release-orientation program
15	instruction in the procedures for applying for
16	restoration of civil rights; providing an
17	effective date.
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19	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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21	Section 1. Section 940.061, Florida Statutes, is
22	amended to read:
23	940.061 Informing persons about executive clemency and
24	restoration of civil rightsThe Department of Corrections
25	shall inform and educate inmates and offenders on community
26	supervision about the restoration of civil rights and assist
27	eligible inmates and offenders on community supervision with
28	the completion of the application for the restoration of civil
29	rights. To document this notification, the department shall
30	obtain the signature of each offender before the offender's
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1 discharge acknowledging receipt of assistance in completing 2 the forms. 3 Section 2. Section 944.293, Florida Statutes, is 4 amended to read: 944.293 Initiation of restoration of civil 5 б rights. --With respect to those persons convicted of a felony, 7 the following procedure shall apply: Prior to the time an 8 offender is discharged from supervision, an authorized agent 9 of the department shall obtain from the Governor the necessary 10 application and other forms required for the restoration of 11 civil rights. The authorized agent shall assist the offender in completing these forms and shall ensure that the 12 13 application and all necessary material are forwarded to the Governor before the offender is discharged from supervision. 14 15 To document compliance with this section, before an offender is discharged from supervision, the department shall obtain 16 17 the signature of the offender acknowledging receipt of assistance in completing the forms required for restoration of 18 19 civil rights. Section 3. Present subsection (6) of section 944.605, 20 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (7), and a new 21 subsection (6) is added to that section, to read: 22 944.605 Inmate release; notification.--23 24 (6) Before an inmate's release, the department shall 25 notify the inmate of the procedures necessary to apply for restoration of civil rights. Pursuant to ss. 944.293 and 26 27 940.03, the department shall obtain the signature of each 28 inmate before the inmate's release acknowledging receipt of 29 assistance in completing the forms. 30 Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 944.705, Florida 31 Statutes, is amended to read:

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1 944.705 Release orientation program. --2 (2) The release orientation program instruction must 3 include, but is not limited to: 4 (a) Employment skills. 5 Money management skills. (b) 6 Personal development and planning. (C) 7 Special needs. (d) Community reentry concerns. 8 (e) 9 (f) Community reentry support. 10 (g) Procedures to apply for restoration of civil 11 rights. (h)(g) Any other appropriate instruction to ensure the 12 13 inmate's successful reentry into the community. 14 Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a 15 law. 16 17 18 SENATE SUMMARY Requires the Department of Corrections to notify an offender, before the offender's discharge from supervision, of procedures for applying for restoration of civil rights. Requires that the department include instruction in applying for restoration of civil rights as part of the department's release-orientation program. (See bill for details.) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 3

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