

HB 4215

2011

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to faith-based prison programs; amending
 3 s. 944.803, F.S.; deleting a requirement that a specified
 4 percentage of inmates in such programs be within 36 months
 5 of release; providing an effective date.

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

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 9 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 944.803, Florida
 10 Statutes, is amended to read:

11 944.803 Faith-based programs for inmates.—

12 (3) The department must have at least six new programs
 13 fully operational. These six programs shall be similar to and in
 14 addition to the current faith-based pilot program. The six new
 15 programs shall be a joint effort with the department and faith-
 16 based service groups within the community. The department shall
 17 ensure that an inmate's faith orientation, or lack thereof, will
 18 not be considered in determining admission to a faith-based
 19 program and that the program does not attempt to convert an
 20 inmate toward a particular faith or religious preference. The
 21 programs shall operate 24 hours a day within the existing
 22 correctional facilities. The programs must emphasize the
 23 importance of personal responsibility, meaningful work,
 24 education, substance abuse treatment, and peer support.
 25 Participation in the faith-based dormitory program shall be
 26 voluntary. ~~However, at least 80 percent of the inmates~~
 27 ~~participating in this program must be within 36 months of~~
 28 ~~release.~~ Assignment to these programs shall be based on

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29 | evaluation and the length of time the inmate is projected to be
30 | assigned to that particular institution. In evaluating an inmate
31 | for this program, priority shall be given to inmates who have
32 | shown an indication for substance abuse. A right to substance
33 | abuse program services is not stated, intended, or otherwise
34 | implied by this subsection. The department may not remove an
35 | inmate once assigned to the program except for the purposes of
36 | population management, for inmate conduct that may subject the
37 | inmate to disciplinary confinement or loss of gain-time, for
38 | physical or mental health concerns, or for security or safety
39 | concerns. To support the programming component, the department
40 | shall assign a chaplain and a full-time clerical support person
41 | dedicated to each dormitory to implement and monitor the program
42 | and to strengthen volunteer participation and support.

43 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.