

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senator Bracy

591-00734-18

2018226c1

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to inmate reentry services; amending
3 s. 944.705, F.S.; requiring the release orientation
4 program to consist of at least 200 hours of
5 instruction time; requiring the program to begin at
6 least 360 days prior to the inmate's release;
7 requiring that housing placement information and job
8 search assistance be included in the release
9 orientation program; requiring the Department of
10 Corrections to assist inmates in securing the
11 identified basic support services; requiring the
12 department to notify every inmate of opportunities for
13 industry certifications and job placement in the
14 community in which the inmate will be released;
15 amending s. 944.7065, F.S.; requiring each inmate
16 released from incarceration by the department to
17 complete at least a 200-hour comprehensive transition
18 course; providing legislative findings; requiring the
19 Department of Corrections to report to the Governor,
20 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives on the opportunities
22 available for all inmates to receive industry
23 certifications and vocational training; requiring the
24 report to include recommendations for improvement and
25 availability; requiring the report be provided to the
26 Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;
27 providing effective dates.

28
29 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of section 944.705, Florida Statutes, are amended and subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

944.705 Release orientation program.—

(1) The department shall provide participation in a standardized release orientation program to every eligible inmate. The program must consist of at least 200 hours of instruction time and begin at least 360 days prior to the inmate's release.

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

- (a) Employment skills.
- (b) Money management skills.
- (c) Personal development and planning.
- (d) Special needs.
- (e) Community reentry concerns.
- (f) Community reentry support.
- (g) Housing placement information.
- (h) Job search assistance.

(i) ~~(g)~~ Any other appropriate instruction to ensure the inmate's successful reentry into the community.

(4) The department shall conduct a needs assessment of every inmate to determine which, if any, basic support services the inmate needs after release. The department shall assist the inmate in securing the identified basic support services.

(7) The department shall notify every inmate of opportunities for industry certifications and job placement in the community in which the inmate will be released.

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59 Section 2. Section 944.7065, Florida Statutes, is amended
60 to read:

61 944.7065 Transition course for inmates.—In an effort to
62 ensure that inmates released from the Department of Corrections
63 successfully reenter the community, ~~beginning December 1, 2002,~~
64 each inmate released from incarceration by the department must
65 complete at least a 200-hour ~~a 100-hour~~ comprehensive transition
66 course that covers job readiness and life management skills.
67 This requirement does not apply to inmates released in an
68 emergency situation.

69 Section 3. Effective upon becoming law, the Legislature
70 finds that an essential element of inmate reentry services and
71 reducing recidivism is providing all inmates with the
72 opportunity to obtain industry certifications and vocational
73 training. The Department of Corrections shall report to the
74 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
75 House of Representatives on the opportunities currently
76 available for all inmates to receive industry certifications and
77 vocational training. The report must include recommendations on
78 improving and enhancing the availability of industry
79 certifications and vocational training for inmates. The
80 department shall provide a written report to the Governor, the
81 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
82 Representatives by October 1, 2018.

83 Section 4. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
84 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
85 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect October 1,
86 2018.