

By Senator Powell

24-01602-24

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to reentry resource centers; amending
3 s. 944.706, F.S.; providing for the provision of
4 inmate transition assistance services through reentry
5 resource centers that collocate support services and
6 resources; specifying some types of assistance that
7 should be included; reenacting s. 944.7071, F.S.,
8 relating to Operation New Hope, to incorporate the
9 amendment made to s. 944.706, F.S., in a reference
10 thereto; providing an effective date.

11
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Section 944.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to
15 read:

16 944.706 ~~Basic~~ Release assistance.—

17 (1) Any inmate who is being released is eligible for
18 transition assistance. Those inmates released to a detainer are
19 eligible pursuant to s. 944.703. Transition assistance services
20 should be made available through reentry resource centers that
21 collocate the necessary support services and resources in one
22 location, including services that address the critical needs of
23 released inmates such as housing, employment, family
24 unification, mental and physical health treatment, and probation
25 support.

26 (2) The department may contract with the Department of
27 Children and Families, the Salvation Army, and other public or
28 private organizations, including faith-based service groups, for
29 the provision of ~~basic~~ support services for releasees.

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30 (3) The department shall adopt rules for the development,
31 implementation, and termination of transition assistance.

32 Section 2. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
33 made by this act to section 944.706, Florida Statutes, in a
34 reference thereto, section 944.7071, Florida Statutes, is
35 reenacted to read:

36 944.7071 Operation New Hope.—As authorized by and
37 consistent with funding appropriated in the General
38 Appropriations Act, the department may contract, in accordance
39 with s. 944.706, with Operation New Hope, a nonprofit
40 organization exempt from taxation pursuant to s. 501(c)(3) of
41 the Internal Revenue Code, to provide reentry services,
42 including, but not limited to, counseling; providing information
43 on housing and job placement; money management assistance; and
44 programs that address substance abuse, mental health, and co-
45 occurring conditions.

46 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.