



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 987

LCO No. 4337



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING REINVESTMENT OF SAVINGS ACHIEVED THROUGH A REDUCTION IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY POPULATION INTO REENTRY AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 18-81w of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) The Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division within the
4 Office of Policy and Management shall develop and implement a
5 comprehensive reentry strategy that provides a continuum of custody,
6 care and control for offenders who are being supervised in the
7 community, especially those offenders who have been discharged from
8 the custody of the Department of Correction, and assists in maintaining
9 the prison population at or under the authorized bed capacity. The
10 reentry strategy shall support the rights of victims, protect the public
11 and promote the successful transition of offenders from incarceration to
12 the community by (1) maximizing any available period of community
13 supervision for eligible and suitable offenders, (2) identifying and
14 addressing barriers to the successful transition of offenders from

15 incarceration to the community, (3) ensuring sufficient criminal justice
16 resources to manage offender caseloads, (4) identifying community-
17 based supervision, treatment, educational and other services and
18 programs that are proven to be effective in reducing recidivism among
19 the population served by such services and programs, and (5)
20 establishing employment initiatives for offenders through public and
21 private services and partnerships by reinvesting any savings achieved
22 through a reduction in prison population.

23 (b) The success of the reentry strategy shall be measured by: (1) The
24 rates of recidivism and community revictimization, (2) the number of
25 inmates eligible for release on parole, transitional supervision,
26 probation or any other release program, (3) the number of inmates who
27 make the transition from incarceration to the community in compliance
28 with a discharge plan, (4) prison bed capacity ratios, (5) the adequacy of
29 the network of community-based treatment, vocational, educational,
30 supervision and other services and programs, and (6) the reinvestment
31 of any savings achieved through a reduction in prison population into
32 reentry and community-based services and programs, including those
33 services and programs to address an offender's needs and risks as
34 determined through an assessment administered under section 3 of this
35 act.

36 (c) Not later than February 15, 2008, and annually thereafter, the
37 Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division within the Office of Policy
38 and Management shall submit a report, in accordance with the
39 provisions of section 11-4a, on the success of the reentry strategy based
40 on the measures set forth in subsection (b) of this section to the joint
41 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
42 matters relating to corrections, public safety and appropriations and the
43 budgets of state agencies.

44 Sec. 2. Section 18-81z of the general statutes is repealed and the
45 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

46 The Department of Correction, the Board of Pardons and Paroles and

47 the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch shall develop
48 a risk assessment strategy for offenders committed to the custody of the
49 Commissioner of Correction that will [(1)] utilize a risk assessment tool
50 that accurately rates an offender's (1) likelihood to recidivate upon
51 release from custody, and (2) identify the support services and
52 programs, including those services and programs to address an
53 offender's needs and risks as determined through an assessment
54 administered under section 3 of this act that will best position [the] each
55 individual offender for successful reentry into the community. Such
56 strategy shall incorporate use of both static and dynamic factors and
57 utilize a gender-responsive approach that recognizes the unique risks
58 and needs of female offenders. In the development of such risk
59 assessment strategy, the department, board and division may partner
60 with an educational institution that has expertise in criminal justice and
61 psychiatry to evaluate risk assessment tools and customize a risk
62 assessment tool to best meet the state's needs. On or before January 1,
63 [2009] 2022, and annually thereafter, the department, board and division
64 shall report to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the
65 General Assembly [on judiciary] relating to corrections, in accordance
66 with section 11-4a, on the development, implementation and
67 effectiveness of such strategy.

68 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The Department of Correction
69 shall screen each offender committed to the custody of the
70 Commissioner of Correction to assess such offender's needs and risks
71 associated with reentry into the community as part of a reentry plan
72 developed for such offender. Such assessment shall evaluate the
73 offender's:

74 (1) Housing needs and homelessness risk, including, but not limited
75 to, the offender's homelessness history, family and other supports, prior
76 tenancy and rental history, income and employment and experience
77 with conducting housing searches and maintaining a household; and

78 (2) Mental health and chronic physical health needs and risks and
79 other medical conditions, provided mental health and physical health

80 classifications and scores are based on validated screening tools and
81 follow-up assessments by qualified clinical professionals, including
82 those assessments performed at the time that an offender is released on
83 parole.

84 (b) Information obtained by assessments under subsection (a) of this
85 section shall be considered as part of any referral process of an offender
86 for community-based (1) housing assistance, and (2) behavioral and
87 primary health care services.

88 (c) Not later than July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the
89 Commissioner of Correction shall report in accordance with the
90 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes to the joint standing
91 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
92 relating to corrections on (1) the number of offenders assessed as having
93 high need for (A) reentry housing assistance, or (B) health or behavioral
94 health services, (2) referred to (A) reentry housing services, (B) a
95 community health worker, or (C) a local mental health authority
96 operated by the state, and (3) results or outcomes associated with any
97 such assistance.

98 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The sum of two million dollars is
99 appropriated to the Department of Correction, from the General Fund,
100 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, for the purpose of contracting
101 with community-based organizations to provide housing-related case
102 management, housing search and navigation, temporary rental
103 assistance and other basic needs for any inmate assessed as needing
104 reentry housing assistance.

105 (b) The sum of two million dollars is appropriated to the Department
106 of Correction, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
107 2023, for the purpose of contracting with community-based
108 organizations to provide housing-related case management, housing
109 search and navigation, temporary rental assistance and other basic
110 needs for any inmate assessed as needing reentry housing assistance.

111 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The sum of five million dollars is

112 appropriated to the Department of Correction, from the General Fund,
113 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, for the purpose of creating an
114 Office of Reentry Supports, which shall use three million dollars to
115 contract with community-based organizations to hire and employ
116 community health workers to help reentering individuals enroll in and
117 maintain connections to primary and behavioral health care services,
118 and shall use two million dollars to hire and employ staff as department
119 reentry case management clinical social workers to support individuals
120 released from incarceration by connecting such individuals to
121 community support systems and ensuring continuity of care as released
122 individuals receive community primary and behavioral health services.

123 (b) The sum of five million dollars is appropriated to the Department
124 of Correction, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
125 2023, for the purpose of maintaining an Office of Reentry Supports,
126 which shall use three million dollars to contract with community-based
127 organizations to hire and employ community health workers to help
128 reentering individuals enroll in and maintain connections to primary
129 and behavioral health care services, and shall use two million dollars to
130 hire and employ staff as department reentry case management clinical
131 social workers to support individuals released from incarceration by
132 connecting such individuals to community support systems and
133 ensuring continuity of care as released individuals receive community
134 primary and behavioral health services.

135 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The sum of fourteen million three
136 hundred twelve thousand seven hundred sixty-nine dollars is
137 appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
138 Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022,
139 for Forensic Services, four million dollars of which shall be used in order
140 to fund new reentry case management social worker positions within
141 each state-operated local mental health authority, which authority shall
142 work with the Department of Correction to ensure adequate reentry
143 case management capacity within each authority and to refer
144 individuals discharged from the custody of the Commissioner of
145 Correction who are assessed as having high mental health needs to such

146 authority's reentry case managers in order to coordinate mental health
147 services and other community support systems, and to expand capacity
148 of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services operated
149 sites for the Advanced Supervision Intervention & Support Team
150 program.

151 (b) The sum of fourteen million four hundred eight thousand five
152 hundred fifty-eight dollars is appropriated to the Department of Mental
153 Health and Addiction Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal
154 year ending June 30, 2023, for Forensic Services, four million dollars of
155 which shall be used in order to fund reentry case management social
156 worker positions within each state-operated local mental health
157 authority, which authority shall work with the Department of
158 Correction to ensure adequate reentry case management capacity
159 within each authority and to refer individuals discharged from the
160 custody of the Commissioner of Correction who are assessed as having
161 high mental health needs to authority reentry case managers in order to
162 coordinate mental health services and other community support
163 systems, and to expand capacity of the Department of Mental Health
164 and Addiction Services operated sites for the Advanced Supervision
165 Intervention & Support Team program.

166 *Sec. 7. (Effective July 1, 2021)* (a) The sum of forty million five hundred
167 eighty-seven thousand eight hundred ninety-eight dollars is
168 appropriated to the Department of Public Health, from the General
169 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, for Personal Services, four
170 million dollars of which shall be used for the purpose of hiring and
171 training fifty formerly incarcerated community health workers to be
172 embedded in community health centers state-wide, connecting recently-
173 incarcerated patients with health and social services through outreach,
174 educational and advocacy efforts, as modeled by a national, empirically
175 proven transitions model selected by the Commissioner of Public
176 Health.

177 (b) The sum of forty-one million nine hundred eighty-three thousand
178 seven hundred nineteen dollars is appropriated to the Department of

179 Public Health, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30,
180 2023, for Personal Services, four million dollars of which shall be used
181 for the purpose of maintaining and training a staff of fifty formerly-
182 incarcerated community health workers to be embedded in community
183 health centers state-wide, connecting recently-incarcerated patients
184 with health and social services through outreach, educational and
185 advocacy efforts, as modeled by a national, empirically proven
186 transitions model selected by the Commissioner of Public Health.

187 Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The sum of one hundred twenty-two
188 million five hundred fifty-six thousand four hundred twenty-five
189 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Correction, from the
190 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, for Inmate
191 Medical Services, fifteen million dollars of which shall be used in order
192 to add an additional one hundred seventy positions to staff health care
193 services for inmates.

194 (b) The sum of one hundred twenty-four million eight hundred
195 twelve thousand six hundred sixty-five dollars is appropriated to the
196 Department of Correction, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
197 ending June 30, 2023, for Inmate Medical Services, fifteen million dollars
198 of which shall be used in order to maintain positions to staff health care
199 services for inmates.

200 Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The sum of two hundred sixteen
201 million four hundred fifty-one thousand eight hundred fifty-six dollars
202 is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
203 Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022,
204 for Personal Expenses, six million dollars of which shall be used to
205 expand the state's mobile crisis intervention services to be available
206 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week in all five mobile crisis
207 regions and to respond to all 911 emergency telephone calls involving
208 acute mental health emergencies and to ensure that mobile crisis
209 intervention services be the default response to such 911 emergency
210 telephone calls.

211 (b) The sum of two hundred twenty-six million five hundred two
 212 thousand eight hundred ninety-two dollars is appropriated to the
 213 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, from the General
 214 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for Personal Expenses, six
 215 million dollars of which shall be used to support the state's mobile crisis
 216 intervention services availability twenty-four hours a day, seven days a
 217 week in all five mobile crisis regions and to respond to all 911
 218 emergency telephone calls involving acute mental health emergencies
 219 and to ensure that mobile crisis intervention services be the default
 220 response to such 911 emergency telephone calls.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	18-81w
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	18-81z
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To reinvest money saved from the closure of Northern Correctional Institution into reentry and community-based services and programs, including, but not limited to, those concerning housing and behavioral and physical health.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]