

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

S.F. No. 1997

(SENATE AUTHORS: CHAMPION)

DATE
02/21/2023

D-PG

Introduction and first reading
Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; appropriating money for community-based programs for
1.3 prerelease and postrelease incarcerated persons; appropriating money for youth
1.4 programs.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **PRERELEASE AND POSTRELEASE INCARCERATED PERSONS**
1.7 **PROGRAMS; APPROPRIATION.**

1.8 \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
1.9 of corrections for a grant to The Power of People Leadership Institute to provide programs
1.10 for prerelease and postrelease of incarcerated persons from the African American community
1.11 by reducing criminal thinking and behavior, increasing reintegration and stability in the
1.12 community, and reducing recidivism. Of this amount:

1.13 (1) \$1,500,000 is to expand:

1.14 (i) prerelease in-person and virtual programs in state correctional facilities and county
1.15 jails; and

1.16 (ii) postrelease services, including but not limited to community-based course offerings,
1.17 mentoring, leadership development, system navigation, weekly group meetings, virtual
1.18 training program, and housing; and

1.19 (2) \$1,500,000 is to expand the institute facilities to include space designated for an
1.20 employment center to provide employment services, training, and wellness resources that
1.21 result in an increase in employment readiness for community members addressing social,
1.22 demographic, racial, and economic barriers. The program will prepare prerelease and

2.1 postrelease incarcerated persons for gainful employment in livable-wage jobs with the
2.2 potential to have lifelong careers.

2.3 **Sec. 2. YOUTH MENTORING AND SUMMER PROGRAMS; APPROPRIATION.**

2.4 \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
2.5 of corrections for a grant to The Power of People Leadership Institute to expand youth
2.6 programs to disrupt the school to prison pipeline, particularly for boys of color, by mentoring
2.7 boys to use their personal power to problem solve, attain self-regulation while maintaining
2.8 positive relationships, graduate from high school, and enroll in college. This appropriation
2.9 will expand the youth program to increase the number of boys attending the program and
2.10 engage boys and girls in a comprehensive summer program with the result of decreasing
2.11 crime and violence caused by disengaged youth in the community.