

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 333 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY THOMAS, SCHLOSSBERG, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, MCGEEHAN, MURT, KINSEY, PARKER AND COHEN, JANUARY 24, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 24, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania
 2 Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions,
 3 establishing the Pennsylvania Interagency Council on Inmate
 4 Reentry.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 61 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
 8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 5907. Pennsylvania Interagency Council on Inmate Reentry.

10 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Interagency Council on
 11 Inmate Reentry is established.

12 (b) Membership.--The council shall consist of the following
 13 members:

14 (1) The secretary, or a designee.

15 (2) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development,
 16 or a designee.

17 (3) The Secretary of Education, or a designee.

18 (4) The Secretary of Labor and Industry, or a designee.

19 (5) The Secretary of Public Welfare, or a designee.

1 (6) The Director of Homeland Security, or a designee.

2 (7) The Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency
3 Management Agency, or a designee.

4 (8) The Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Housing
5 Finance Agency, or a designee.

6 (9) The Adjutant General of the Department of Military
7 and Veterans Affairs or a designee.

8 (10) The victim advocate of the Office of Victim
9 Advocate or a designee.

10 (11) The Chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation
11 and Parole or a designee.

12 (12) An elected county commissioner selected by the
13 County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

14 (13) An elected district attorney selected by the
15 Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association.

16 (c) Quorum.--A majority of the members shall constitute a
17 quorum and a vote of the majority of the members present shall
18 be sufficient for all actions.

19 (d) Chairperson.--The secretary or his designee shall serve
20 as the chairperson of the council. A member of the council shall
21 be designated by the chairperson of the committee as vice
22 chairperson and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the
23 chairperson.

24 (e) Meetings.--The council shall meet at the call of the
25 chairperson but no less than six times per year.

26 (f) Reimbursement.--Members of the council shall serve
27 without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary and
28 reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings of the
29 council and in the performance of their duties under this
30 section.

1 (g) Support.--The department shall provide staff and
2 administrative support for the council. The council may enter
3 into a memorandum of understanding with the Pennsylvania
4 Commission on Crime and Delinquency for additional necessary
5 support.

6 (h) Duties.--

7 (1) The council shall examine:

8 (i) The ways in which the process of reentering
9 inmates into the community may be improved.

10 (ii) The ways of strengthening the educational and
11 vocational skills of inmates while incarcerated.

12 (iii) The ways to establish and implement effective
13 and consistent reentry plans prior to inmates' scheduled
14 release into the community.

15 (iv) The ways to incentivize employers to hire
16 former inmates through financial or other economic
17 incentives.

18 (v) The impediments to successful reentry plans,
19 such as the use of employer background checks and
20 statutory and regulatory bars to employment.

21 (2) The council may rely on studies and reports that
22 have already been prepared by other state entities or private
23 organizations in its examination under this subsection.

24 (i) Report to General Assembly.--The council shall submit a
25 report to the General Assembly that provides the results of its
26 findings and examination under subsection (h) and shall file its
27 report with recommendations no later than one year from the
28 effective date of this section.

29 (j) Expiration.--This section shall expire 365 days from the
30 effective date of this section.

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.