

SENATE BILL 129

By Green

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40  
and Title 41, relative to substance abuse treatment  
services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 4, is amended by adding  
the following new section:

(a) The sheriff of any county or the chief administrator of any municipal jail may  
contract with any substance abuse treatment program licensed or certified by the  
department of mental health and substance abuse services to provide substance abuse  
treatment services to inmates housed in the county or municipal jail.

(b)

(1) An inmate's participation in any substance abuse treatment services  
shall be voluntary, and the inmate may withdraw from participation at any time.

(2) In order to participate in substance abuse treatment services, an  
inmate shall submit to a clinical substance abuse assessment to be administered  
by qualified alcohol and drug abuse treatment personnel, as that term is defined  
by rules promulgated by the department of mental health and substance abuse  
services. If the qualified alcohol and drug abuse treatment personnel  
determines, based on the assessment, that the inmate would benefit from  
substance abuse treatment, the inmate may participate in such treatment.

(3) The sheriff or other official in charge of a jail may refuse to permit an  
inmate to participate in substance abuse treatment services for any breach of  
discipline, security reason, or other violation of jail regulations.

(c) Participation in substance abuse treatment services administered pursuant to this section shall be credited toward reduction of the inmate's sentence in the following manner: for each one (1) day of participation in the substance abuse treatment services, the inmate's sentence shall be reduced by two (2) days. Sentence reduction credits shall not be credited pursuant to this subsection (c), unless the inmate completes the substance abuse treatment program. If any inmate violates the rules and regulations of the jail, or otherwise behaves improperly, the sheriff or chief administrator of the jail may revoke all or any portion of the inmate's credit awarded pursuant to this subsection (c).

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.