

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 483**

Introduced by Bolz, 29; Campbell, 25; Krist, 10; Lathrop, 12.

Read first time January 22, 2013

Committee: Judiciary

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to correctional services; to amend section  
2 83-917, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012; to  
3 state intent; to provide for court costs as prescribed;  
4 to provide for a reentry planning program in adult  
5 correctional facilities; and to repeal the original  
6 section.  
7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that:

2           (a) Early childhood is an exceptionally important time  
3 period for brain growth and language development. Investments in  
4 early childhood programs result in long-term savings in a variety of  
5 areas, including, but not limited to, public education, criminal  
6 justice, child welfare, and health care;

7           (b) Research reveals that children who have parents  
8 involved in their lives perform better academically and socially in  
9 school, experience fewer mental health and substance abuse issues,  
10 and are less likely to commit serious crime;

11           (c) Improved parenting skills, capacity building for  
12 adults, and community building address these vulnerabilities and  
13 promote healthy early childhood development;

14           (d) Children with an incarcerated parent are among the  
15 most vulnerable and most in need of investments for physical and  
16 social development; and

17           (e) Reentry planning prior to release from incarceration  
18 and the involvement of family members in the reentry planning process  
19 will produce positive results in terms of reducing recidivism and  
20 misconduct and promoting child well-being.

21           (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to add to the  
22 uses of the Reentry Cash Fund created pursuant to section 83-917 to  
23 include reentry programs focused on families.

24           Sec. 2. In addition to all other costs assessed according  
25 to law, an assessment of one dollar shall be assessed for each

1 conviction of a person for any misdemeanor or felony in county court  
2 or district court and each affirmation on appeal. No such assessment  
3 shall be collected in any juvenile court proceeding. No county shall  
4 be liable for the assessment imposed pursuant to this section. The  
5 assessments shall be remitted to the State Treasurer on forms  
6 prescribed by the State Treasurer within ten days after the end of  
7 the month. The State Treasurer shall credit such fees to the Reentry  
8 Cash Fund.

9           Sec. 3. Section 83-917, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
10 Supplement, 2012, is amended to read:

11           83-917 (1) The Reentry Cash Fund is created. The fund  
12 shall be administered by the Department of Correctional Services. The  
13 State Treasurer shall credit funds remitted pursuant to sections  
14 33-157 and 83-184 and section 2 of this act and donations or  
15 contributions from public or private sources to the Reentry Cash  
16 Fund.

17           (2) The fund shall be used by the department for:

18           (a) Tuition, tuition,—fees, and other costs associated  
19 with reentry and reintegration programs offered to offenders that are  
20 placed in the incarceration work camp; and -

21           (b) For the award of a contract for the purpose of  
22 providing in all Nebraska adult correctional facilities an evidence-  
23 based program of parent education, early literacy, relationship  
24 skills development, and reentry planning involving family members of  
25 incarcerated parents prior to their release. Incarcerated parents of

1 children between birth and five years of age shall have priority for  
2 participation in the program. The award of such contract shall be  
3 based on competitive bids as provided in sections 73-101 to 73-105.  
4 The department shall track data related to program participation and  
5 recidivism.

6           Any money in the fund available for investment shall be  
7 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska  
8 Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

9           Sec. 4. Original section 83-917, Revised Statutes  
10 Cumulative Supplement, 2012, is repealed.