

LEGISLATIVE BILL 483

Approved by the Governor June 4, 2013

Introduced by Bolz, 29; Campbell, 25; Krist, 10; Lathrop, 12; Dubas, 34.

FOR AN ACT relating to correctional services; to amend section 83-150, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to state intent; to provide for a reentry planning pilot program in adult correctional facilities; to change provisions relating to the use of a fund; and to repeal the original section.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that:

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

(b) Strategies to address family stability and intergenerational poverty are specifically needed for children with incarcerated parents; and

(c) Research reveals that family-based reentry planning, including relationship development and housing and employment strategies, results in lower recidivism and greater family economic stability.

(2) The Department of Correctional Services shall establish a two-year pilot program for the purpose of providing in Nebraska adult correctional facilities an evidence-based program of parent education, early literacy, relationship skills development, and reentry planning involving family members of incarcerated parents prior to their release. Incarcerated parents of children between birth and five years of age shall have priority for participation in the program. The department may award a contract to operate the pilot program. Such contract shall be based on competitive bids as provided in sections 73-101 to 73-105. The department shall track data related to program participation and recidivism.

(3) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate two hundred fifty thousand dollars from the General Fund to the department in each of fiscal years 2013-14 and 2014-15 for purposes of funding the pilot program required by this section.

Sec. 2. Section 83-150, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

83-150 All funds received by the Department of Correctional Services under sections 83-144 to 83-152 shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Correctional Industries Revolving Fund, which fund is hereby created. The fund shall be administered by the Director of Correctional Services. The fund (1) shall be used to pay all proper expenses incident to the administration of sections 83-144 to 83-152 and (2) may be used to carry out section 1 of this act, except that transfers from the fund to the General Fund may be made at the direction of the Legislature. Any money in the Correctional Industries Revolving Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 3. Original section 83-150, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.