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Yes

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No

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§2
C.30:1B-6.2a
§§6-8,10
C.30:8-16.14 to
30:8-16.17
§9
C.30:8-16.18
§§11-15
C.30:8-16.19 to
30:8-16.23
§16
C.30:1B-6.18

(CORRECTED COPY)

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 312, *approved December 21, 2021*
Senate, No. 2953 (*Third Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning services for certain inmates and amending and
2 supplementing various parts of the statutory law.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.329 (C.30:1B-6.2) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 2. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to each
10 inmate at least 10 days prior to release from a State correctional
11 facility:

12 a. A copy of the inmate's criminal history record and written
13 information on the inmate's right to have his criminal records
14 expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;

15 b. General written information on the inmate's right to vote
16 under R.S.19:4-1;

17 c. General written information on the availability of programs,
18 including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in
19 removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in
20 vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not
21 limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted
22 Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the
23 certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-
24 7 et seq.);

25 d. A detailed written record of the inmate's participation in
26 educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment
27 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SLP committee amendments adopted March 11, 2021.

²Senate floor amendments adopted June 3, 2021.

³Senate amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations December 2, 2021.

- 1 e. A written accounting of the fines, assessments, surcharges,
2 restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any other
3 obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;
- 4 f. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2020, c.45)
- 5 g. ¹[A copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was
6 born in New Jersey;] ³[(Deleted by amendment, P.L. _____, c. _____)
7 (pending before the Legislature as this bill)] ¹A copy of the inmate's
8 birth certificate, as issued by the Department of Health, Office of Vital
9 Statistics, if the inmate was born in New Jersey; ³
- 10 h. Assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;
- 11 i. A one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;
- 12 j. A [two-week] ²[three-month] ³[30-day] ²two-week ³ supply
13 of prescription medication ³[², a three-month supply of long-acting
14 injectables, ²] ³ and ^{2, 2} to the extent consistent with clinical
15 guidelines, ³a two-week prescription order with ³ ²[an additional 30
16 day prescription order and] ² two additional refills ²[¹or long-acting
17 injectables ¹] ²;
- 18 k. General written information concerning child support,
19 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information
20 on how to seek child support payments and information on where to
21 seek services regarding child support, child custody, and establishing
22 parentage; and
- 23 l. (1) A medical discharge summary, which shall include
24 instructions on how to obtain from the commissioner a copy of the
25 inmate's full medical record. Upon request from the inmate, the
26 commissioner shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical record
27 in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate.
- 28 (2) Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the
29 commissioner, in consultation with the State Board of Medical
30 Examiners, shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
31 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
32 seq.), to ensure that these records are expeditiously and securely
33 provided, in a manner consistent with the provision of medical
34 records by other providers.
- 35 ³[m. _____ A benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining
36 benefits under the:
- 37 (1) Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
38 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);
- 39 (2) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
40 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
41 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and
- 42 (3) Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
43 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for inmates
44 who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release,
45 emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New Jersey
46 recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51).] ³
47 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.1)

1 ¹2. (New section) The Commissioner of Corrections shall
2 ³~~provide to~~ ³offer³ each inmate ³, upon request,³ at least ³~~60~~
3 ³180³ days prior to release from a State correctional facility ³,
4 ³assistance with obtaining³ a copy of the inmate's birth certificate ³,
5 ³as issued by the Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics,³ if the
6 inmate was born in New Jersey.¹ ³The commissioner shall ensure
7 that all inmates who were born in New Jersey are notified of their
8 ability to obtain the commissioner's assistance in accessing their
9 birth certificates pursuant to this section.³

10
11 ¹~~2.~~ ¹3.¹ Section 2 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.15) is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 2. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide a non-
14 driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
15 Commission to each inmate, free of charge, as soon as practicable,
16 but not less than 10 days prior to the inmate's release from a State
17 correctional facility. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
18 shall issue the identification card and accept a former inmate's
19 Department of Corrections identification card as two points for the
20 purposes of applying for the identification card.

21 b. An inmate's Department of Corrections identification card
22 shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and
23 New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the date
24 of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to gain
25 access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible including,
26 but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

27 ~~Whenever the~~ c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection
28 b. of this section, whenever Motor Vehicle Commission agencies are
29 closed during a declared public health emergency, pursuant to the
30 "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-
31 1 et seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251
32 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.), or both, the inmate's Department of
33 Corrections identification card shall be accepted by all State, county,
34 and municipal agencies and New Jersey ~~nonprofits~~ nonprofit
35 organizations in a manner as to allow the ~~releasee~~ released inmate
36 to gain access to services for which ~~they are~~ the inmate is deemed
37 eligible for the duration of the public health emergency.

38 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.2)

39
40 ¹~~3.~~ ¹4.¹ Section 4 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.16) is amended
41 to read as follows:

42 4. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall ensure that an
43 inmate is assisted with completing, obtaining any required signatures
44 or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the
45 Department of Human Services as soon as practicable but not less
46 than 30 days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration, an online

1 application for enrollment in the Medicaid program, established
2 pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

3 b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this section,
4 the Commissioner of Corrections shall also ensure that the inmate is
5 assisted in completing, obtaining any required signatures or
6 authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the appropriate
7 county welfare agency or board of social services, as soon as
8 practicable but not less than 30 days prior to an inmate's release from
9 incarceration, online applications for enrollment in the following
10 programs:

11 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
12 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
13 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

14 (2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
15 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include , for inmates
16 who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release, the
17 application for emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First
18 New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14
19 (C.44:10-51).

20 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to
21 accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received
22 from the Department of Corrections pursuant to subsection a. of this
23 section.

24 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
25 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of
26 Corrections shall ³, with the inmate's consent,³ ensure that the
27 address of ³[the] a³ ²[appropriate] ³[applicable Department of
28 Community Affairs² regional non-profit inmate]³ reentry
29 organization is used for the purposes of establishing proof of
30 residence to meet any applicable eligibility requirements. ³The
31 commissioner shall ensure that all inmates who are unable to identify a
32 residence at the time of application for benefits are educated on their
33 ability to select the address of the reentry organization as a residential
34 address pursuant to this subsection.³

35 e. All State, county, and municipal agencies, for the purposes of
36 establishing applicable eligibility requirements, shall:

37 (1) accept the address of the ²[appropriate] ³[applicable
38 Department of Community Affairs² regional non-profit inmate]³
39 reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify a
40 residence at the time of application for benefits ³in accordance with
41 subsection d. of this section³ ; and

42 (2) accept an inmate's Department of Corrections identification
43 card to establish the inmate's identity.

44 f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for ³[benefits under
45 the Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's
46 certification of income, resources, and family composition, and based
47 on other information immediately available at the time of application,

1 shall be deemed presumptively eligible for³ Work First New Jersey
 2 assistance ³[and] shall be screened for³ immediate need assistance
 3 ³[and shall receive this assistance for a period of not less than 45
 4 days following the inmate's release from incarceration]³.

5 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.4)

6
 7 ¹[4.] 5.¹ Section 5 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.17) is amended
 8 to read as follows:

9 5. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to the
 10 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in
 11 advance of an inmate's release, the inmate's name, release date, and
 12 contact information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a
 13 telephone number or an email address.

14 b. The commissioner shall provide to ¹[the applicable regional]
 15 ²[each¹] ³[the applicable Department of Community Affairs
 16 regional² non-profit inmate]³ reentry organization ³selected as a
 17 residential address pursuant to subsection d. of section 4 of this bill³
 18 ²[¹approved by the Department of Community Affairs¹]², in
 19 advance of an inmate's release, the information required in
 20 subsection a. of this section ¹unless the inmate requests that the
 21 information not be forwarded¹.

22 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.5)

23
 24 ¹[5.] 6.¹ (New section) ²[a.]² The chief executive officer,
 25 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide
 26 to each inmate ²incarcerated for 90 days or longer² at least 30 days
 27 prior to release from a facility:

28 ²[(1)] a.² a copy of the inmate's criminal history record and
 29 written information on the inmate's right to have the inmate's
 30 criminal records expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New
 31 Jersey Statutes;

32 ²[(2)] b.² general written information on the inmate's right to
 33 vote under R.S.19:4-1;

34 ²[(3)] c.² general written information on the availability of
 35 programs, including faith-based and secular programs, that would
 36 assist in removing barriers to the inmate's employment or
 37 participation in vocational or educational rehabilitative programs,
 38 including but not limited to, information concerning the
 39 "Rehabilitated Convicted Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282
 40 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the certificate of rehabilitation under
 41 P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-7 et seq.);

42 ²[(4)] d.² a detailed written record of the inmate's participation
 43 in educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment
 44 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

- 1 ²[(5)] e.² a written accounting of the fines, assessments,
2 surcharges, restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any
3 other obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;
- 4 ²[(6)] f.² a copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate
5 was born in New Jersey;
- 6 ²[(7)] g.² assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;
- 7 ²[(8)] h.² a one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;
- 8 ²[(9)] i.² a ²[three-month] ³[30-day²] two-week³ supply of
9 prescription medication ³[², a three-month supply of long-acting
10 injectables.]³ ² and, to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines,
11 ³a two-week prescription order with³ ²[an additional 30 day
12 prescription order and]² two additional refills ²[¹or long-acting
13 injectables¹]²;
- 14 ²[(10)] j.² general written information concerning child support,
15 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information
16 on how to seek child support payments and information on where to
17 seek services regarding child support, child custody, and establishing
18 parentage; ³and³
- 19 ²[(11)] k.² a medical discharge summary, which shall include
20 instructions on how to obtain from the superintendent a copy of the
21 inmate's full medical record; upon request from the inmate, the
22 superintendent shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical
23 record in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate; the
24 superintendent shall comply with rules and regulations, adopted
25 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
26 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), that ensure that these records are expeditiously
27 and securely provided in a manner consistent with the provision of
28 medical records by other providers ³[; and
- 29 ²[(12)] l.² a benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining
30 benefits under the:
- 31 ²[(a)] (1)² Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968,
32 c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);
- 33 ²[(b)] (2)² Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,
34 established pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008,"
35 Pub.L.88-525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and
- 36 ²[(c)] (3)² Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant
37 to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for
38 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release,
39 emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New Jersey
40 recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51)³.
- 41 ²[b. If an inmate is at any time scheduled for release from a
42 county correctional facility in less than 30 days, the superintendent
43 shall comply with the provisions of subsection a. of this section at
44 least 48 hours prior to the inmate's release.]²

1 ²7. (New section) There shall be annually appropriated to the
 2 counties through the annual appropriations act such amounts as shall
 3 be deemed necessary to cover the cost of the prescription medicine
 4 required pursuant to the provisions of subsection i. of section 6 of
 5 P.L. . c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).²
 6

7 ²8. (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden, or
 8 keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to the
 9 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in
 10 advance of the release of an inmate who has been incarcerated for 90
 11 days or longer, the inmate's name, release date, and contact
 12 information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a telephone
 13 number or an email address.

14 b. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county
 15 correctional facility shall ³, with the inmate's consent,³ provide to
 16 the ³[applicable Department of Community Affairs regional non-
 17 profit inmate]³ reentry organization ³selected as a residential address
 18 pursuant to subsection d. of section 4 of this bill³ , in advance of the
 19 release of an inmate who has been incarcerated for 90 days or longer,
 20 the information required in subsection a. of this section unless the
 21 inmate requests that the information not be forwarded.²
 22

23 ¹[~~6.~~] ²[~~7.~~¹] ^{9.}² (New section) a. ³[The chief executive officer,
 24 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide a
 25 non-driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor
 26 Vehicle Commission to each county inmate ²incarcerated for 90 days
 27 or longer², free of charge, as soon as practicable, but not less than 10
 28 days prior to the inmate's release from the county correctional
 29 facility.]³ The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall ³[issue
 30 the identification card and]³ accept a former inmate's county
 31 correctional facility identification card as two points for the purposes
 32 of applying for ³[the] a non-driver³ identification card.

33 b. An inmate's county correctional facility identification card
 34 shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and
 35 New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the date
 36 of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to gain
 37 access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible including,
 38 but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

39 c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection b. of this
 40 section, whenever the Motor Vehicle Commission agencies are
 41 closed during a declared public health emergency, pursuant to the
 42 "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et
 43 seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251 (C.App.A:9-
 44 33 et seq.), or both, the inmate's Department of Corrections
 45 identification card shall be accepted by all State, county, and
 46 municipal agencies and New Jersey nonprofit organizations in a
 47 manner as to allow the released inmate to gain access to services for

1 which they are deemed eligible for the duration of the public health
2 emergency.

3
4 ¹[7.] ²[8.1] 10.² (New section) a. As soon as practicable but not
5 less than 30 days prior to ²[an inmate's] the² release ²[from
6 incarceration] of an inmate incarcerated for 90 days or longer², the
7 chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional
8 facility shall ensure that an inmate is assisted with completing,
9 obtaining any required signatures or authorizations for, and
10 forwarding for processing to the Department of Human Services an
11 online application for enrollment in the Medicaid program,
12 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

13 b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this section,
14 the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper also shall ensure that
15 ³[the] such³ inmate is assisted in completing, obtaining any required
16 signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the
17 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, as
18 soon as practicable but not less than 30 days prior to an inmate's
19 release from incarceration, online applications for enrollment in the
20 following programs:

21 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
22 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
23 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

24 (2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
25 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include , for inmates
26 who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release, the
27 application for emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First
28 New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14
29 (C.44:10-51).

30 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to
31 accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received
32 from the ³[Department of Corrections] county correctional
33 facilities³ pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

34 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
35 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the chief executive
36 officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility ³, with
37 the inmate's consent,³ shall ensure that the address of the
38 ³[appropriate regional non-profit inmate]³ reentry organization is
39 used for the purposes of establishing proof of residence to meet any
40 applicable eligibility requirements. ³The chief executive officer,
41 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall ensure that
42 all inmates incarcerated for 90 days or longer are educated on their
43 ability to select a reentry organization as a residential address pursuant
44 to this subsection.³

45 e. All State, county, and municipal agencies, for the purposes of
46 establishing applicable eligibility requirements, shall:

1 (1) accept the address of the ³[appropriate regional non-profit
2 inmate]³ reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify
3 a residence at the time of application for benefits; and

4 (2) accept an inmate's county correctional facility identification
5 card to establish the inmate's identity.

6 f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for ³[benefits under the
7 Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's certification
8 of income, resources, and family composition, and based on other
9 information immediately available at the time of application, shall be
10 deemed presumptively eligible for]³ Work First New Jersey
11 assistance ³[and] shall be screened for³ immediate need assistance
12 ³[and shall receive this assistance for a period of not less than 45
13 days following the inmate's release from incarceration]³.
14

15 ²11. (New section) a. The governing body of each county in this
16 State may, by duly adopted ordinance or resolution, appoint a county
17 reentry coordinator who shall be responsible for evaluating the needs
18 of, and navigating the appropriate treatment and services for, each
19 inmate in a county correctional facility in this State.

20 b. The county reentry coordinator shall evaluate each inmate in
21 a county correctional facility who has been sentenced to a term of
22 incarceration or ordered detained pending trial following a pretrial
23 detention hearing. The purpose of the evaluation shall be to:

24 (1) identify which social services and reentry and rehabilitative
25 programs would benefit the inmate including, but not limited to, the
26 WorkFirst NJ Substance Abuse Initiative;

27 (2) determine whether the inmate is eligible to apply for federal,
28 State, and county public assistance program benefits including, but
29 not limited to, State and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
30 Program benefits, Medicaid, and housing assistance program
31 benefits;

32 (3) determine whether the inmate would benefit from substance
33 use disorder treatment including, but not limited to, medication-
34 assisted treatment; and

35 (4) identify other appropriate treatment, services, and programs
36 which would benefit the inmate.

37 c. The evaluation required pursuant to subsection b. of this
38 section shall be conducted in conjunction with the clinical screening
39 of inmates as part of the initial classification process.

40 d. The county reentry coordinator shall offer assistance to the
41 inmate in accessing any services deemed appropriate for the inmate,
42 based on the evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection b. of this
43 section, by:

44 (1) assisting the inmate with scheduling and otherwise accessing
45 appropriate treatment, services, and programming upon the inmate's
46 release from the facility;

1 (2) providing information concerning, and assistance in
2 completing, applications for appropriate State and county public
3 assistance program benefits which shall include, but not be limited
4 to, State and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
5 benefits, Medicaid, and housing assistance program benefits. The
6 county reentry coordinator shall make every effort to ensure that the
7 inmate is actively enrolled in appropriate programming upon or as
8 soon as practicable following the inmate's release from the facility;

9 (3) providing information concerning available substance use
10 disorder treatment and services including, but not limited to,
11 medication-assisted treatment. The county reentry coordinator shall
12 assist the inmate with scheduling and otherwise accessing
13 appropriate treatment and services upon the inmate's release from the
14 facility;

15 (4) providing information concerning relevant social services and
16 reentry and rehabilitative programs including, but not limited to, the
17 WorkFirst NJ Substance Abuse Initiative. The county reentry
18 coordinator shall assist the inmate with completing applications for
19 and otherwise accessing appropriate services and programming upon
20 the inmate's release from the facility;

21 (5) providing information concerning services provided by the
22 State's One-Stop Career Centers. The county reentry coordinator
23 shall schedule appointments for the inmate to meet with
24 representatives from the career center and shall register the inmate
25 for participation in any mandatory programming upon the inmate's
26 release from the facility;

27 (6) providing information concerning insurance eligibility and
28 assistance in completing applications for insurance coverage; the
29 county reentry coordinator shall make every effort to ensure that
30 coverage for the inmate is active upon or as soon as practicable
31 following the inmate's release from the facility; and

32 (7) providing information concerning any other treatment,
33 services, and programming deemed appropriate based on the
34 evaluation required pursuant to this section.

35 e. The county reentry coordinator also shall:

36 (1) provide assistance to each inmate, upon release from a county
37 correctional facility, with obtaining a non-driver identification card;

38 (2) ensure, to the best of the coordinator's ability, and
39 conditioned on discharge information provided by the Administrative
40 Office of the Courts, that each inmate is released from custody during
41 regular business hours so that the inmate may access appropriate
42 treatment and services immediately upon release; and

43 (3) ensure each inmate at the time of discharge is provided with
44 the prescription medication required pursuant to paragraph (9) of
45 subsection a. of section 6 of P.L. c. (pending before the
46 Legislature as this bill).²

47 ³f. The county reentry coordinator shall consult and coordinate
48 with the county board of social services or welfare agency, as

1 appropriate, when providing information or assistance with respect
2 to a benefit or service administered by the board or welfare agency.³

3
4 ²12. (New section) a. The county reentry coordinator shall record
5 data regarding: the number of inmates who are offered services
6 pursuant to section 10 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
7 Legislature as this bill); the number of inmates who accept the
8 services offered; the types of services provided to each inmate who
9 accepts the services offered; the race, gender, ethnicity, and age of
10 each inmate; a record of any crimes committed by inmates who are
11 released from the facility and the types of crimes committed for a
12 period of three years following the inmate's release; and the number
13 of inmates who were not released, and the reasons why they were not
14 released, from a county correctional facility during regular business
15 hours.

16 b. The data shall be analyzed to determine whether the rates and
17 nature of rearrests and convictions differ according to whether an
18 inmate received services in accordance with section 10 of P.L. ,
19 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The
20 county reentry coordinator shall annually prepare and transmit the
21 findings to the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each
22 county correctional facility, as appropriate; the superintendent,
23 director, or other chief administrative officer of the County Board of
24 Social Services or welfare agency, as appropriate; the governing
25 body of the county in which the correctional facility is located; and
26 the Commissioner of Corrections.²

27
28 ²13. (New section) The county reentry coordinator shall, in
29 collaboration with the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of a
30 county correctional facility, develop peer counseling programs in the
31 county correctional facility that support the treatment of county
32 inmates with substance use disorders. The warden, director, or
33 administrator may additionally develop initiatives to provide inmates
34 in the custody of the county correctional facility with access to
35 professional substance use disorder counseling.²

36
37 ²14. (New section) a. The county reentry coordinator shall meet
38 ³[regularly] annually³ with community stakeholders who may offer
39 guidance for evaluating the needs of and providing services to
40 inmates in county correctional facilities including, but not limited to:

- 41 (1) the Commissioner of Corrections, or a designee;
42 (2) the Commissioner of Human Services, or a designee;
43 (3) the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of the county
44 correctional facility;
45 (4) the superintendent, director, or other chief administrative
46 officer of the County Board of Social Services or welfare agency, as
47 appropriate;

- 1 (5) the county human services director, or a designee;
 2 (6) the county mental health administrator, or a designee;
 3 (7) the president of a county community college, or a designee;
 4 (8) reentry services providers in the county;
 5 (9) substance use disorder treatment providers in the county; and
 6 (10) a person who previously has received substance use disorder
 7 services in the county.

8 b. Based on the guidance received during the meetings
 9 conducted pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the county reentry
 10 coordinator shall:

11 (1) establish best practices for preparing county inmates for
 12 release;

13 (2) identify services available in the county that may be needed
 14 by inmates upon release from a county correctional facility including,
 15 but not limited to, housing, food, medical care, clothing, substance
 16 use disorder treatment; mental health services, employment
 17 assistance, and education assistance;

18 (3) make appropriate recommendations to the county correctional
 19 facility and County Board of Social Services or welfare agency with
 20 respect to preparing county inmates for successful reentry into the
 21 community and reducing recidivism.²

22
 23 ²15. There shall be annually appropriated through the annual
 24 appropriations act such amounts as shall be deemed necessary to
 25 implement the provisions of sections 11 through 14 of P.L. ____.
 26 c. (C. ____ through C. ____) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
 27 concerning the county reentry coordinator.²

28
 29 ¹~~[8.]~~ ²~~[9.1]~~ 16.² (New section) An inmate released from a State
 30 or county correctional facility shall be authorized to use the address
 31 of a ³~~[nonprofit inmate]~~³ reentry organization ³~~[approved by the~~
 32 ~~Department of Community Affairs]~~³ as a mailing address in an
 33 application for benefits under the:

34 a. Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
 35 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);

36 b. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
 37 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
 38 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

39 c. Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
 40 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.) ³, provided the inmate consents to
 41 the use of the reentry organization's address as their mailing address³.

42
 43 ¹~~[9.]~~ ²~~[10.1]~~ 17.² Section 5 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-48) is
 44 amended to read as follows:

45 5. a. Only those persons who are United States citizens or
 46 eligible aliens shall be eligible for benefits under the Work First New
 47 Jersey program. Single adults or couples without dependent children

1 who are legal aliens who meet federal requirements and have applied
2 for citizenship, shall not receive benefits for more than six months
3 unless (1) they attain citizenship, or (2) they have passed the English
4 language and civics components for citizenship, and are awaiting
5 final determination of citizenship by the federal Immigration and
6 Naturalization Service.

7 b. The following persons shall not be eligible for assistance and
8 shall not be considered to be members of an assistance unit:

9 (1) non-needy caretakers, except that the eligibility of a
10 dependent child shall not be affected by the income or resources of a
11 non-needy caretaker;

12 (2) Supplemental Security Income recipients, except for the
13 purposes of receiving emergency assistance benefits pursuant to
14 section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51);

15 (3) illegal aliens;

16 (4) other aliens who are not eligible aliens;

17 (5) a person absent from the home who is incarcerated in a
18 federal, State, county or local corrective facility or under the custody
19 of correctional authorities, except as provided by regulation of the
20 commissioner;

21 (6) a person who: is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or
22 confinement after conviction, under the laws of the jurisdiction from
23 which the person has fled, for a crime or an attempt to commit a crime
24 which is a felony or a high misdemeanor under the laws of the
25 jurisdiction from which the person has fled; or is violating a condition
26 of probation or parole imposed under federal or state law;

27 (7) [a person convicted on or after August 22, 1996 under federal
28 or state law of any offense which is classified as a felony or crime,
29 as appropriate, under the laws of the jurisdiction involved and which
30 has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled
31 substance as defined in section 102(6) of the federal "Controlled
32 Substances Act" (21 U.S.C. s.802 (6)), who would otherwise be
33 eligible for general public assistance pursuant to P.L.1947, c.156
34 (C.44:8-107 et seq.); except that such a person who is convicted of
35 any such offense which has as an element the possession or use only
36 of such a controlled substance may be eligible for Work First New
37 Jersey general public assistance benefits if the person enrolls in or
38 has completed a licensed residential or outpatient drug treatment
39 program. An otherwise eligible individual who has a past drug
40 conviction shall be eligible for general public assistance without
41 enrolling in or completing a drug treatment program if either: (1) an
42 appropriate treatment program is not available; or (2) the person is
43 excused from enrolling in a treatment program for good cause
44 pursuant to regulation.

45 Eligibility for benefits for a person entering a licensed drug
46 treatment program which does not operate in a State correctional
47 facility or county jail shall commence upon the person's enrollment
48 in the drug treatment program, and shall continue during the person's

1 active participation in, and upon completion of, the drug treatment
2 program, except that during the person's active participation in a drug
3 treatment program and the first 60 days after completion of a drug
4 treatment program, the commissioner shall provide for testing of the
5 person to determine if the person is free of any controlled substance.
6 If the person is determined to not be free of any controlled substance
7 during the 60-day period, the person's eligibility for benefits pursuant
8 to this paragraph shall be terminated; except that this provision shall
9 not apply to the use of prescription drugs by a person who is actively
10 participating in a drug treatment program, as prescribed by the drug
11 treatment program. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to
12 carry out the provisions of this paragraph, which shall include the
13 criteria for determining active participation in and completion of a
14 drug treatment program.

15 Eligibility for benefits for a person who completes a licensed
16 residential drug treatment program which operates in a State
17 correctional facility or county jail, in accordance with section 1 of
18 P.L.2014, c.1 (C.26:2B-40), shall commence upon release from
19 incarceration.

20 Cash benefits, less a personal needs allowance, for a person
21 receiving general public assistance benefits under the Work First
22 New Jersey program who is enrolled in and actively participating in
23 a licensed drug treatment program shall be issued directly to the drug
24 treatment provider to offset the cost of treatment. Upon completion
25 of the drug treatment program, the cash benefits shall be then issued
26 to the person. In the case of a delay in issuing cash benefits to a
27 person receiving Work First New Jersey general public assistance
28 benefits who has completed the drug treatment program, the drug
29 treatment provider shall transmit to the person those funds received
30 on behalf of that person after completion of the drug treatment
31 program;](Deleted by amendment, (P.L. , c.) (pending before
32 the Legislature as this bill

33 (8) a person found to have fraudulently misrepresented his
34 residence in order to obtain means-tested, public benefits in two or
35 more states or jurisdictions, who shall be ineligible for benefits for a
36 period of 10 years from the date of conviction in a federal or state
37 court; or

38 (9) a person who intentionally makes a false or misleading
39 statement or misrepresents, conceals or withholds facts for the
40 purpose of receiving benefits, who shall be ineligible for benefits for
41 a period of six months for the first violation, 12 months for the second
42 violation, and permanently for the third violation.

43 c. A person who makes a false statement with the intent to
44 qualify for benefits and by reason thereof receives benefits for which
45 the person is not eligible is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.

46 d. Pursuant to the authorization provided to the states under 21
47 U.S.C. s.862a(d)(1), this State elects to exempt from the application
48 of 21 U.S.C. s.862a(a):

1 (1) needy persons and their dependent children domiciled in New
2 Jersey for the purposes of receiving benefits under the Work First
3 New Jersey program and food assistance under the federal "Food and
4 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-234 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.); and

5 (2) single persons and married couples without dependent
6 children domiciled in New Jersey for the purposes of receiving food
7 assistance under Pub.L.110-234.

8 (cf: P.L.2016, c.69, s.1)

9
10 ³[²[11] 18². (New section) The Governor shall appoint an
11 independent investigator to evaluate the Commissioner of
12 Correction's compliance with the provisions of ²P.L.2019, c.282;
13 P.L.2019, c.288; P.L.2019, c.364;² P.L.2020, c.45²;² and ²[this act]
14 P.L. c. ² (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Within
15 six months of the effective date of this act, the independent
16 investigator shall report findings and conclusions to the Governor
17 and the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
18 (C.52:14-19.1).¹]³

19
20 ¹[10.] ²[12.¹] ³[19.²] 18.³ This act shall take effect
21 immediately.

22
23
24
25
26

Expands scope of inmate reentry assistance and benefits.

CHAPTER 312
(CORRECTED COPY)

AN ACT concerning services for certain inmates and amending and supplementing various parts of the statutory law.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.329 (C.30:1B-6.2) is amended to read as follows:

C.30:1B-6.2 Information provided to inmate prior to release; rules, regulations.

2. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to each inmate at least 10 days prior to release from a State correctional facility:

- a. A copy of the inmate's criminal history record and written information on the inmate's right to have his criminal records expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;

- b. General written information on the inmate's right to vote under R.S.19:4-1;

- c. General written information on the availability of programs, including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-7 et seq.);

- d. A detailed written record of the inmate's participation in educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

- e. A written accounting of the fines, assessments, surcharges, restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any other obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;

- f. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2020, c.45)

- g. A copy of the inmate's birth certificate, as issued by the Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, if the inmate was born in New Jersey;

- h. Assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;

- i. A one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;

- j. A two-week supply of prescription medication and, to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, a two-week prescription order with two additional refills;

- k. General written information concerning child support, including child support payments owed by the inmate, information on how to seek child support payments and information on where to seek services regarding child support, child custody, and establishing parentage; and

- l. (1) A medical discharge summary, which shall include instructions on how to obtain from the commissioner a copy of the inmate's full medical record. Upon request from the inmate, the commissioner shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical record in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate.

- (2) Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the commissioner, in consultation with the State Board of Medical Examiners, shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to ensure that these records are expeditiously and securely provided, in a manner consistent with the provision of medical records by other providers.

C.30:1B-6.2a Commissioner's assistance in obtaining inmate's birth certificate.

2. The Commissioner of Corrections shall offer each inmate, upon request, at least 180 days prior to release from a State correctional facility, assistance with obtaining a copy of the inmate's birth certificate, as issued by the Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, if the inmate was born in New Jersey. The commissioner shall ensure that all inmates who were born in New Jersey are notified of their ability to obtain the commissioner's assistance in accessing their birth certificates pursuant to this section.

3. Section 2 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.15) is amended to read as follows:

C.30:1B-6.15 Provision of non-driver identification card.

2. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide a non-driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to each inmate, free of charge, as soon as practicable, but not less than 10 days prior to the inmate's release from a State correctional facility. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue the identification card and accept a former inmate's Department of Corrections identification card as two points for the purposes of applying for the identification card.

b. An inmate's Department of Corrections identification card shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the date of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to gain access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible including, but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection b. of this section, whenever Motor Vehicle Commission agencies are closed during a declared public health emergency, pursuant to the "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.), or both, the inmate's Department of Corrections identification card shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and New Jersey nonprofit organizations in a manner as to allow the released inmate to gain access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible for the duration of the public health emergency.

4. Section 4 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.16) is amended to read as follows:

C.30:1B-6.16 Assistance with applications for enrollment in certain programs.

4. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall ensure that an inmate is assisted with completing, obtaining any required signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the Department of Human Services as soon as practicable but not less than 30 days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration, an online application for enrollment in the Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this section, the Commissioner of Corrections shall also ensure that the inmate is assisted in completing, obtaining any required signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, as soon as practicable but not less than 30 days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration, online applications for enrollment in the following programs:

(1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

(2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release, the application for emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51).

c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received from the Department of Corrections pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of application for benefits pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of Corrections shall, with the inmate's consent, ensure that the address of a reentry organization is used for the purposes of establishing proof of residence to meet any applicable eligibility requirements. The commissioner shall ensure that all inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of application for benefits are educated on their ability to select the address of the reentry organization as a residential address pursuant to this subsection.

e. All State, county, and municipal agencies, for the purposes of establishing applicable eligibility requirements, shall:

(1) accept the address of the reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify a residence at the time of application for benefits in accordance with subsection d. of this section; and

(2) accept an inmate's Department of Corrections identification card to establish the inmate's identity.

f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for Work First New Jersey assistance shall be screened for immediate need assistance.

5. Section 5 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.17) is amended to read as follows:

C.30:1B-6.17 Information provided to county welfare agency, board of social services.

5. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to the appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in advance of an inmate's release, the inmate's name, release date, and contact information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a telephone number or an email address.

b. The commissioner shall provide to reentry organization selected as a residential address pursuant to subsection d. of section 4 of this bill, in advance of an inmate's release, the information required in subsection a. of this section unless the inmate requests that the information not be forwarded.

C.30:8-16.14 Provisions to inmate incarcerated 90 days or longer.

6. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to each inmate incarcerated for 90 days or longer at least 30 days prior to release from a facility:

a. a copy of the inmate's criminal history record and written information on the inmate's right to have the inmate's criminal records expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;

b. general written information on the inmate's right to vote under R.S.19:4-1;

c. general written information on the availability of programs, including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282

(C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-7 et seq.);

- d. a detailed written record of the inmate's participation in educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment programs while the inmate was incarcerated;
- e. a written accounting of the fines, assessments, surcharges, restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any other obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;
- f. a copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was born in New Jersey;
- g. assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;
- h. a one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;
- i. a two-week supply of prescription medication and, to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, a two-week prescription order with two additional refills;
- j. general written information concerning child support, including child support payments owed by the inmate, information on how to seek child support payments and information on where to seek services regarding child support, child custody, and establishing parentage; and
- k. a medical discharge summary, which shall include instructions on how to obtain from the superintendent a copy of the inmate's full medical record; upon request from the inmate, the superintendent shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical record in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate; the superintendent shall comply with rules and regulations, adopted pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), that ensure that these records are expeditiously and securely provided in a manner consistent with the provision of medical records by other providers.

C.30:8-16.15 Annual appropriations for prescription medicine.

7. There shall be annually appropriated to the counties through the annual appropriations act such amounts as shall be deemed necessary to cover the cost of the prescription medicine required pursuant to the provisions of subsection i. of section 6 of P.L.2021, c.312 (C.30:8-16.14).

C.30:8-16.16 Provisions to county welfare agency, reentry organization.

8. a. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to the appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in advance of the release of an inmate who has been incarcerated for 90 days or longer, the inmate's name, release date, and contact information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a telephone number or an email address.

b. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall, with the inmate's consent, provide to the reentry organization selected as a residential address pursuant to subsection d. of section 4 of this bill, in advance of the release of an inmate who has been incarcerated for 90 days or longer, the information required in subsection a. of this section unless the inmate requests that the information not be forwarded.

C.30:8-16.18 Uses of inmate's county correctional facility identification card.

9. a. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall accept a former inmate's county correctional facility identification card as two points for the purposes of applying for a non-driver identification card.

b. An inmate's county correctional facility identification card shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the date of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to gain access to

services for which the inmate is deemed eligible including, but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection b. of this section, whenever the Motor Vehicle Commission agencies are closed during a declared public health emergency, pursuant to the "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.), or both, the inmate's Department of Corrections identification card shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and New Jersey nonprofit organizations in a manner as to allow the released inmate to gain access to services for which they are deemed eligible for the duration of the public health emergency.

C.30:8-16.17 Various online application enrollments; processing, acceptance.

10. a. As soon as practicable but not less than 30 days prior to the release of an inmate incarcerated for 90 days or longer, the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall ensure that an inmate is assisted with completing, obtaining any required signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the Department of Human Services an online application for enrollment in the Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this section, the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper also shall ensure that such inmate is assisted in completing, obtaining any required signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, as soon as practicable but not less than 30 days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration, online applications for enrollment in the following programs:

(1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-525 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.); and

(2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release, the application for emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51).

c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received from the county correctional facilities pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of application for benefits pursuant to this section, the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility, with the inmate's consent, shall ensure that the address of the reentry organization is used for the purposes of establishing proof of residence to meet any applicable eligibility requirements. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall ensure that all inmates incarcerated for 90 days or longer are educated on their ability to select a reentry organization as a residential address pursuant to this subsection.

e. All State, county, and municipal agencies, for the purposes of establishing applicable eligibility requirements, shall:

(1) accept the address of the reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify a residence at the time of application for benefits; and

(2) accept an inmate's county correctional facility identification card to establish the inmate's identity.

f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for Work First New Jersey assistance shall be screened for immediate need assistance.

C.30:8-16.19 County reentry coordinator.

11. a. The governing body of each county in this State may, by duly adopted ordinance or resolution, appoint a county reentry coordinator who shall be responsible for evaluating the needs of, and navigating the appropriate treatment and services for, each inmate in a county correctional facility in this State.

b. The county reentry coordinator shall evaluate each inmate in a county correctional facility who has been sentenced to a term of incarceration or ordered detained pending trial following a pretrial detention hearing. The purpose of the evaluation shall be to:

(1) identify which social services and reentry and rehabilitative programs would benefit the inmate including, but not limited to, the Work First New Jersey Substance Abuse Initiative;

(2) determine whether the inmate is eligible to apply for federal, State, and county public assistance program benefits including, but not limited to, State and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, Medicaid, and housing assistance program benefits;

(3) determine whether the inmate would benefit from substance use disorder treatment including, but not limited to, medication-assisted treatment; and

(4) identify other appropriate treatment, services, and programs which would benefit the inmate.

c. The evaluation required pursuant to subsection b. of this section shall be conducted in conjunction with the clinical screening of inmates as part of the initial classification process.

d. The county reentry coordinator shall offer assistance to the inmate in accessing any services deemed appropriate for the inmate, based on the evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection b. of this section, by:

(1) assisting the inmate with scheduling and otherwise accessing appropriate treatment, services, and programming upon the inmate's release from the facility;

(2) providing information concerning, and assistance in completing, applications for appropriate State and county public assistance program benefits which shall include, but not be limited to, State and federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, Medicaid, and housing assistance program benefits. The county reentry coordinator shall make every effort to ensure that the inmate is actively enrolled in appropriate programming upon or as soon as practicable following the inmate's release from the facility;

(3) providing information concerning available substance use disorder treatment and services including, but not limited to, medication-assisted treatment. The county reentry coordinator shall assist the inmate with scheduling and otherwise accessing appropriate treatment and services upon the inmate's release from the facility;

(4) providing information concerning relevant social services and reentry and rehabilitative programs including, but not limited to, the Work First New Jersey Substance Abuse Initiative. The county reentry coordinator shall assist the inmate with completing applications for and otherwise accessing appropriate services and programming upon the inmate's release from the facility;

(5) providing information concerning services provided by the State's One-Stop Career Centers. The county reentry coordinator shall schedule appointments for the inmate to meet with representatives from the career center and shall register the inmate for participation in any mandatory programming upon the inmate's release from the facility;

(6) providing information concerning insurance eligibility and assistance in completing applications for insurance coverage; the county reentry coordinator shall make every effort to

ensure that coverage for the inmate is active upon or as soon as practicable following the inmate's release from the facility; and

(7) providing information concerning any other treatment, services, and programming deemed appropriate based on the evaluation required pursuant to this section.

e. The county reentry coordinator also shall:

(1) provide assistance to each inmate, upon release from a county correctional facility, with obtaining a non-driver identification card;

(2) ensure, to the best of the coordinator's ability, and conditioned on discharge information provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts, that each inmate is released from custody during regular business hours so that the inmate may access appropriate treatment and services immediately upon release; and

(3) ensure each inmate at the time of discharge is provided with the prescription medication required pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection a. of section 6 of P.L.2021, c.312 (C.30:8-16.14).

f. The county reentry coordinator shall consult and coordinate with the county board of social services or welfare agency, as appropriate, when providing information or assistance with respect to a benefit or service administered by the board or welfare agency.

C.30:8-16.20 Recording of data.

12. a. The county reentry coordinator shall record data regarding: the number of inmates who are offered services pursuant to section 10 of P.L.2021, c.312 (C.30:8-16.17); the number of inmates who accept the services offered; the types of services provided to each inmate who accepts the services offered; the race, gender, ethnicity, and age of each inmate; a record of any crimes committed by inmates who are released from the facility and the types of crimes committed for a period of three years following the inmate's release; and the number of inmates who were not released, and the reasons why they were not released, from a county correctional facility during regular business hours.

b. The data shall be analyzed to determine whether the rates and nature of rearrests and convictions differ according to whether an inmate received services in accordance with section 10 of P.L.2021, c.312 (C.30:8-16.17). The county reentry coordinator shall annually prepare and transmit the findings to the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility, as appropriate; the superintendent, director, or other chief administrative officer of the County Board of Social Services or welfare agency, as appropriate; the governing body of the county in which the correctional facility is located; and the Commissioner of Corrections.

C.30:8-16.21 Peer counseling program development.

13. The county reentry coordinator shall, in collaboration with the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of a county correctional facility, develop peer counseling programs in the county correctional facility that support the treatment of county inmates with substance use disorders. The warden, director, or administrator may additionally develop initiatives to provide inmates in the custody of the county correctional facility with access to professional substance use disorder counseling.

C.30:8-16.22 Annual meeting.

14. a. The county reentry coordinator shall meet annually with community stakeholders who may offer guidance for evaluating the needs of and providing services to inmates in county correctional facilities including, but not limited to:

- (1) the Commissioner of Corrections, or a designee;
- (2) the Commissioner of Human Services, or a designee;
- (3) the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of the county correctional facility;
- (4) the superintendent, director, or other chief administrative officer of the County Board of Social Services or welfare agency, as appropriate;
- (5) the county human services director, or a designee;
- (6) the county mental health administrator, or a designee;
- (7) the president of a county community college, or a designee;
- (8) reentry services providers in the county;
- (9) substance use disorder treatment providers in the county; and
- (10) a person who previously has received substance use disorder services in the county.

b. Based on the guidance received during the meetings conducted pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the county reentry coordinator shall:

- (1) establish best practices for preparing county inmates for release;
- (2) identify services available in the county that may be needed by inmates upon release from a county correctional facility including, but not limited to, housing, food, medical care, clothing, substance use disorder treatment; mental health services, employment assistance, and education assistance;

(3) make appropriate recommendations to the county correctional facility and County Board of Social Services or welfare agency with respect to preparing county inmates for successful reentry into the community and reducing recidivism.

C.30:8-16.23 Annual appropriations for county reentry coordinator implementations.

15. There shall be annually appropriated through the annual appropriations act such amounts as shall be deemed necessary to implement the provisions of sections 11 through 14 of P.L.2021, c.312 (C.30:8-16.19 through C.30:8-16.22) concerning the county reentry coordinator.

C.30:1B-6.18 Inmate's use of the reentry organization's address.

16. An inmate released from a State or county correctional facility shall be authorized to use the address of a reentry organization as a mailing address in an application for benefits under the:

- a. Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);
- b. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and
- c. Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), provided the inmate consents to the use of the reentry organization's address as their mailing address.

17. Section 5 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-48) is amended to read as follows:

C.44:10-48 Eligibility of citizens, eligible aliens.

5. a. Only those persons who are United States citizens or eligible aliens shall be eligible for benefits under the Work First New Jersey program. Single adults or couples without dependent children who are legal aliens who meet federal requirements and have applied for citizenship, shall not receive benefits for more than six months unless (1) they attain citizenship, or (2) they have passed the English language and civics components for

citizenship, and are awaiting final determination of citizenship by the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service.

b. The following persons shall not be eligible for assistance and shall not be considered to be members of an assistance unit:

(1) non-needy caretakers, except that the eligibility of a dependent child shall not be affected by the income or resources of a non-needy caretaker;

(2) Supplemental Security Income recipients, except for the purposes of receiving emergency assistance benefits pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51);

(3) illegal aliens;

(4) other aliens who are not eligible aliens;

(5) a person absent from the home who is incarcerated in a federal, State, county or local corrective facility or under the custody of correctional authorities, except as provided by regulation of the commissioner;

(6) a person who: is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or confinement after conviction, under the laws of the jurisdiction from which the person has fled, for a crime or an attempt to commit a crime which is a felony or a high misdemeanor under the laws of the jurisdiction from which the person has fled; or is violating a condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state law;

(7) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2021, c.312)

(8) a person found to have fraudulently misrepresented his residence in order to obtain means-tested, public benefits in two or more states or jurisdictions, who shall be ineligible for benefits for a period of 10 years from the date of conviction in a federal or state court; or

(9) a person who intentionally makes a false or misleading statement or misrepresents, conceals or withholds facts for the purpose of receiving benefits, who shall be ineligible for benefits for a period of six months for the first violation, 12 months for the second violation, and permanently for the third violation.

c. A person who makes a false statement with the intent to qualify for benefits and by reason thereof receives benefits for which the person is not eligible is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree.

d. Pursuant to the authorization provided to the states under 21 U.S.C. s.862a(d)(1), this State elects to exempt from the application of 21 U.S.C. s.862a(a):

(1) needy persons and their dependent children domiciled in New Jersey for the purposes of receiving benefits under the Work First New Jersey program and food assistance under the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-234 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.); and

(2) single persons and married couples without dependent children domiciled in New Jersey for the purposes of receiving food assistance under Pub.L.110-234.

18. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved December 21, 2021.

SENATE, No. 2953

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Expands scope of inmate reentry assistance and benefits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning services for certain inmates and amending and
2 supplementing various parts of the statutory law.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.329 (C.30:1B-6.2) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to each
10 inmate at least 10 days prior to release from a State correctional
11 facility:

12 a. A copy of the inmate's criminal history record and written
13 information on the inmate's right to have his criminal records
14 expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;

15 b. General written information on the inmate's right to vote
16 under R.S.19:4-1;

17 c. General written information on the availability of programs,
18 including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in
19 removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in
20 vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not
21 limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted
22 Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the
23 certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-7 et
24 seq.);

25 d. A detailed written record of the inmate's participation in
26 educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment
27 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

28 e. A written accounting of the fines, assessments, surcharges,
29 restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any other
30 obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;

31 f. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2020, c.45)

32 g. A copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was
33 born in New Jersey;

34 h. Assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;

35 i. A one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;

36 j. A **[two-week]** three-month supply of prescription
37 medication and to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, an
38 additional 30 day prescription order and two additional refills;

39 k. General written information concerning child support,
40 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information
41 on how to seek child support payments and information on where to
42 seek services regarding child support, child custody, and
43 establishing parentage; and

44 l. (1) A medical discharge summary, which shall include
45 instructions on how to obtain from the commissioner a copy of the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 inmate's full medical record. Upon request from the inmate, the
2 commissioner shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical
3 record in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate.

4 (2) Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the
5 commissioner, in consultation with the State Board of Medical
6 Examiners, shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
7 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
8 seq.), to ensure that these records are expeditiously and securely
9 provided, in a manner consistent with the provision of medical
10 records by other providers.

11 m. A benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining
12 benefits under the:

13 (1) Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
14 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);

15 (2) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
16 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
17 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

18 (3) Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
19 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for
20 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of
21 release, emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New
22 Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-
23 51).

24 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.1)

25

26 2. Section 2 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.15) is amended to
27 read as follows:

28 2. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide a non-
29 driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
30 Commission to each inmate, free of charge, as soon as practicable,
31 but not less than 10 days prior to the inmate's release from a State
32 correctional facility. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
33 shall issue the identification card and accept a former inmate's
34 Department of Corrections identification card as two points for the
35 purposes of applying for the identification card.

36 b. An inmate's Department of Corrections identification card
37 shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and
38 New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the
39 date of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to
40 gain access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible
41 including, but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

42 **【Whenever the】** c. Notwithstanding the provisions of
43 subsection b. of this section, whenever Motor Vehicle Commission
44 agencies are closed during a declared public health emergency,
45 pursuant to the "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222
46 (C.26:13-1 et seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942,
47 c.251 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.), or both, the inmate's Department of
48 Corrections identification card shall be accepted by all State,

1 county, and municipal agencies and New Jersey **【nonprofits】**
2 nonprofit organizations in a manner as to allow the **【releasee】**
3 released inmate to gain access to services for which **【they are】** the
4 inmate is deemed eligible for the duration of the public health
5 emergency.

6 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.2)

7

8 3. Section 4 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.16) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 4. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall ensure that an
11 inmate is assisted with completing, obtaining any required
12 signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to
13 the Department of Human Services as soon as practicable but not
14 less than 30 days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration, an
15 online application for enrollment in the Medicaid program,
16 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

17 b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this
18 section, the Commissioner of Corrections shall also ensure that the
19 inmate is assisted in completing, obtaining any required signatures
20 or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the
21 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, as
22 soon as practicable but not less than 30 days prior to an inmate's
23 release from incarceration, online applications for enrollment in the
24 following programs:

25 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
26 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
27 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

28 (2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
29 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include , for
30 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of
31 release, the application for emergency assistance benefits issued to
32 Work First New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997,
33 c.14 (C.44:10-51).

34 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to
35 accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received
36 from the Department of Corrections pursuant to subsection a. of this
37 section.

38 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
39 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the Commissioner
40 of Corrections shall ensure that the address of the appropriate
41 regional non-profit inmate reentry organization is used for the
42 purposes of establishing proof of residence to meet any applicable
43 eligibility requirements.

44 e. All State, county, and municipal agencies, for the purposes
45 of establishing applicable eligibility requirements, shall:

46 (1) accept the address of the appropriate regional non-profit
47 inmate reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify
48 a residence at the time of application for benefits; and

1 (2) accept an inmate's Department of Corrections identification
2 card to establish the inmate's identity.

3 f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for benefits under the
4 Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's certification
5 of income, resources, and family composition, and based on other
6 information immediately available at the time of application, shall
7 be deemed presumptively eligible for Work First New Jersey
8 assistance and immediate need assistance and shall receive this
9 assistance for a period of not less than 45 days following the
10 inmate's release from incarceration.

11 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.4)

12
13 4. Section 5 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.17) is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 5. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to the
16 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in
17 advance of an inmate's release, the inmate's name, release date, and
18 contact information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a
19 telephone number or an email address.

20 b. The commissioner shall provide to the applicable regional
21 non-profit inmate reentry organization, in advance of an inmate's
22 release, the information required in subsection a. of this section.

23 (cf: P. L.2020, c.45, s.5)

24
25 5. (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden, or
26 keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to each
27 inmate at least 30 days prior to release from a facility:

28 (1) a copy of the inmate's criminal history record and written
29 information on the inmate's right to have the inmate's criminal
30 records expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey
31 Statutes;

32 (2) general written information on the inmate's right to vote
33 under R.S.19:4-1;

34 (3) general written information on the availability of programs,
35 including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in
36 removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in
37 vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not
38 limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted
39 Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the
40 certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-7 et
41 seq.);

42 (4) a detailed written record of the inmate's participation in
43 educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment
44 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

45 (5) a written accounting of the fines, assessments, surcharges,
46 restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any other
47 obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;

- 1 (6) a copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was born
2 in New Jersey;
- 3 (7) assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;
- 4 (8) a one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;
- 5 (9) a three-month supply of prescription medication and, to the
6 extent consistent with clinical guidelines, an additional 30 day
7 prescription order and two additional refills;
- 8 (10) general written information concerning child support,
9 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information
10 on how to seek child support payments and information on where to
11 seek services regarding child support, child custody, and
12 establishing parentage;
- 13 (11) a medical discharge summary, which shall include
14 instructions on how to obtain from the superintendent a copy of the
15 inmate's full medical record; upon request from the inmate, the
16 superintendent shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical
17 record in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate; the
18 superintendent shall comply with rules and regulations, adopted
19 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
20 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), that ensure that these records are
21 expeditiously and securely provided in a manner consistent with the
22 provision of medical records by other providers; and
- 23 (12) a benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining
24 benefits under the:
- 25 (a) Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
26 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);
- 27 (b) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
28 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
29 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and
- 30 (c) Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
31 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for
32 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of
33 release, emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New
34 Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-
35 51).
- 36 b. If an inmate is at any time scheduled for release from a
37 county correctional facility in less than 30 days, the superintendent
38 shall comply with the provisions of subsection a. of this section at
39 least 48 hours prior to the inmate's release.
- 40
- 41 6. (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden, or
42 keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide a non-
43 driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
44 Commission to each county inmate, free of charge, as soon as
45 practicable, but not less than 10 days prior to the inmate's release
46 from the county correctional facility. The New Jersey Motor
47 Vehicle Commission shall issue the identification card and accept a

1 former inmate's county correctional facility identification card as
2 two points for the purposes of applying for the identification card.

3 b. An inmate's county correctional facility identification card
4 shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and
5 New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the
6 date of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to
7 gain access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible
8 including, but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

9 c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection b. of this
10 section, whenever the Motor Vehicle Commission agencies are
11 closed during a declared public health emergency, pursuant to the
12 "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et
13 seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251
14 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.), or both, the inmate's Department of
15 Corrections identification card shall be accepted by all State,
16 county, and municipal agencies and New Jersey nonprofit
17 organizations in a manner as to allow the released inmate to gain
18 access to services for which they are deemed eligible for the
19 duration of the public health emergency.

20

21 7. (New section) a. As soon as practicable but not less than 30
22 days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration, the chief
23 executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional
24 facility shall ensure that an inmate is assisted with completing,
25 obtaining any required signatures or authorizations for, and
26 forwarding for processing to the Department of Human Services an
27 online application for enrollment in the Medicaid program,
28 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

29 b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this
30 section, the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper also shall
31 ensure that the inmate is assisted in completing, obtaining any
32 required signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding for
33 processing to the appropriate county welfare agency or board of
34 social services, as soon as practicable but not less than 30 days prior
35 to an inmate's release from incarceration, online applications for
36 enrollment in the following programs:

37 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
38 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
39 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

40 (2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
41 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include , for
42 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of
43 release, the application for emergency assistance benefits issued to
44 Work First New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997,
45 c.14 (C.44:10-51).

46 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to
47 accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received

1 from the Department of Corrections pursuant to subsection a. of this
2 section.

3 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
4 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the chief executive
5 officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall
6 ensure that the address of the appropriate regional non-profit inmate
7 reentry organization is used for the purposes of establishing proof
8 of residence to meet any applicable eligibility requirements.

9 e. All State, county, and municipal agencies, for the purposes
10 of establishing applicable eligibility requirements, shall:

11 (1) accept the address of the appropriate regional non-profit
12 inmate reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify
13 a residence at the time of application for benefits; and

14 (2) accept an inmate's county correctional facility identification
15 card to establish the inmate's identity.

16 f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for benefits under the
17 Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's certification
18 of income, resources, and family composition, and based on other
19 information immediately available at the time of application, shall
20 be deemed presumptively eligible for Work First New Jersey
21 assistance and immediate need assistance and shall receive this
22 assistance for a period of not less than 45 days following the
23 inmate's release from incarceration.

24

25 8. (New section) An inmate released from a State or county
26 correctional facility shall be authorized to use the address of a
27 nonprofit inmate reentry organization approved by the Department
28 of Community Affairs as a mailing address in an application for
29 benefits under the:

30 a. Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
31 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);

32 b. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
33 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
34 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

35 c. Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
36 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.).

37

38 9. Section 5 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-48) is amended to read
39 as follows:

40 5. a. Only those persons who are United States citizens or
41 eligible aliens shall be eligible for benefits under the Work First
42 New Jersey program. Single adults or couples without dependent
43 children who are legal aliens who meet federal requirements and
44 have applied for citizenship, shall not receive benefits for more than
45 six months unless (1) they attain citizenship, or (2) they have passed
46 the English language and civics components for citizenship, and are
47 awaiting final determination of citizenship by the federal
48 Immigration and Naturalization Service.

1 b. The following persons shall not be eligible for assistance and
2 shall not be considered to be members of an assistance unit:

3 (1) non-needy caretakers, except that the eligibility of a
4 dependent child shall not be affected by the income or resources of
5 a non-needy caretaker;

6 (2) Supplemental Security Income recipients, except for the
7 purposes of receiving emergency assistance benefits pursuant to
8 section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51);

9 (3) illegal aliens;

10 (4) other aliens who are not eligible aliens;

11 (5) a person absent from the home who is incarcerated in a
12 federal, State, county or local corrective facility or under the
13 custody of correctional authorities, except as provided by regulation
14 of the commissioner;

15 (6) a person who: is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or
16 confinement after conviction, under the laws of the jurisdiction
17 from which the person has fled, for a crime or an attempt to commit
18 a crime which is a felony or a high misdemeanor under the laws of
19 the jurisdiction from which the person has fled; or is violating a
20 condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state law;

21 (7) [a person convicted on or after August 22, 1996 under
22 federal or state law of any offense which is classified as a felony or
23 crime, as appropriate, under the laws of the jurisdiction involved
24 and which has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a
25 controlled substance as defined in section 102(6) of the federal
26 "Controlled Substances Act" (21 U.S.C. s.802 (6)), who would
27 otherwise be eligible for general public assistance pursuant to
28 P.L.1947, c.156 (C.44:8-107 et seq.); except that such a person who
29 is convicted of any such offense which has as an element the
30 possession or use only of such a controlled substance may be
31 eligible for Work First New Jersey general public assistance
32 benefits if the person enrolls in or has completed a licensed
33 residential or outpatient drug treatment program. An otherwise
34 eligible individual who has a past drug conviction shall be eligible
35 for general public assistance without enrolling in or completing a
36 drug treatment program if either: (1) an appropriate treatment
37 program is not available; or (2) the person is excused from enrolling
38 in a treatment program for good cause pursuant to regulation.

39 Eligibility for benefits for a person entering a licensed drug
40 treatment program which does not operate in a State correctional
41 facility or county jail shall commence upon the person's enrollment
42 in the drug treatment program, and shall continue during the
43 person's active participation in, and upon completion of, the drug
44 treatment program, except that during the person's active
45 participation in a drug treatment program and the first 60 days after
46 completion of a drug treatment program, the commissioner shall
47 provide for testing of the person to determine if the person is free of
48 any controlled substance. If the person is determined to not be free

1 of any controlled substance during the 60-day period, the person's
2 eligibility for benefits pursuant to this paragraph shall be
3 terminated; except that this provision shall not apply to the use of
4 prescription drugs by a person who is actively participating in a
5 drug treatment program, as prescribed by the drug treatment
6 program. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to carry out the
7 provisions of this paragraph, which shall include the criteria for
8 determining active participation in and completion of a drug
9 treatment program.

10 Eligibility for benefits for a person who completes a licensed
11 residential drug treatment program which operates in a State
12 correctional facility or county jail, in accordance with section 1 of
13 P.L.2014, c.1 (C.26:2B-40), shall commence upon release from
14 incarceration.

15 Cash benefits, less a personal needs allowance, for a person
16 receiving general public assistance benefits under the Work First
17 New Jersey program who is enrolled in and actively participating in
18 a licensed drug treatment program shall be issued directly to the
19 drug treatment provider to offset the cost of treatment. Upon
20 completion of the drug treatment program, the cash benefits shall be
21 then issued to the person. In the case of a delay in issuing cash
22 benefits to a person receiving Work First New Jersey general public
23 assistance benefits who has completed the drug treatment program,
24 the drug treatment provider shall transmit to the person those funds
25 received on behalf of that person after completion of the drug
26 treatment program; ~~] (Deleted by amendment, (P.L. , c.)~~
27 (pending before the Legislature as this bill

28 (8) a person found to have fraudulently misrepresented his
29 residence in order to obtain means-tested, public benefits in two or
30 more states or jurisdictions, who shall be ineligible for benefits for
31 a period of 10 years from the date of conviction in a federal or state
32 court; or

33 (9) a person who intentionally makes a false or misleading
34 statement or misrepresents, conceals or withholds facts for the
35 purpose of receiving benefits, who shall be ineligible for benefits
36 for a period of six months for the first violation, 12 months for the
37 second violation, and permanently for the third violation.

38 c. A person who makes a false statement with the intent to
39 qualify for benefits and by reason thereof receives benefits for
40 which the person is not eligible is guilty of a crime of the fourth
41 degree.

42 d. Pursuant to the authorization provided to the states under 21
43 U.S.C. s.862a(d)(1), this State elects to exempt from the application
44 of 21 U.S.C. s.862a(a):

45 (1) needy persons and their dependent children domiciled in
46 New Jersey for the purposes of receiving benefits under the Work
47 First New Jersey program and food assistance under the federal

1 "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-234 (7 U.S.C. s.2011
2 et seq.); and

3 (2) single persons and married couples without dependent
4 children domiciled in New Jersey for the purposes of receiving food
5 assistance under Pub.L.110-234.

6 (cf: P.L.2016, c.69, s.1)

7

8 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

9

10

11

STATEMENT

12

13 This bill expands the scope of reentry services and benefits
14 currently available to inmates released from incarceration in State
15 and county correctional facilities.

16 The State's Fair Release and Reentry Act of 2009, recently
17 amended by P.L.2020, c.45, requires the Department of Corrections
18 (DOC) to ensure inmates are provided within 10 days of their
19 release from incarceration various documents, information, and
20 other items to assist them in their reentry efforts, including non-
21 driver identification cards and a two-week supply of prescription
22 medicine. This bill extends the provisions of the act to also require
23 inmates being released from county correctional facilities to be
24 provided with these same documents, information, and items.

25 P.L.2020, c.45 amended the act to require that an inmate's DOC
26 identification card be accepted by all State, county, and municipal
27 agencies and New Jersey nonprofit organizations for inmates to
28 access reentry services during a public health or state of emergency.
29 The bill continues to require this during the time of emergency, but
30 also requires that agencies and organizations accept these cards for
31 six months after the inmate is released, as well as extend the
32 provision to apply to county correctional facility identification
33 cards during emergencies and six months after release.

34 P.L.2020, c.45 also required the DOC to supply, in addition to
35 two weeks of prescription medication, an additional 30 day
36 prescription order and two additional refills to inmates released
37 during the 2020 public health emergency or state of emergency.
38 This bill makes the requirement permanent and extends it to county
39 correctional facilities.

40 The bill further amends the act to require the DOC to issue to
41 inmates being released a benefits card approved for the purpose of
42 obtaining benefits under the Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition
43 Assistance Program (SNAP), and Work First New Jersey programs
44 and extends this requirement to county correctional facilities.

45 Another provision of P.L.2020, c.45 requires the DOC to ensure
46 that an inmate is assisted in completing and forwarding for
47 processing online applications for enrollment in Medicaid, SNAP,
48 and Work First New Jersey 30 days before release. The Department

1 of Human Services is required to accept and process these
2 applications. The bill requires the commissioner to ensure that any
3 required signatures or authorizations are to be obtained from the
4 inmate when completing the applications. The bill also requires the
5 address of the appropriate regional non-profit inmate reentry
6 organization to be used for any inmate who is unable to identify a
7 residence at the time of application for benefits, and requires all
8 State, county, and municipal agencies to accept the address for the
9 purposes of establishing proof of residence to meet any applicable
10 eligibility requirements. This bill extends these requirements to the
11 county correctional facilities.

12 Under the bill, an inmate who appears to be eligible for benefits
13 under the Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's
14 certification of income, resources, and family composition, and
15 based on other information immediately available at the time of
16 application, is to be deemed presumptively eligible for Work First
17 New Jersey assistance and immediate need assistance and is to
18 receive this assistance for a period of not less than 45 days
19 following the inmate's release from incarceration.

20 P.L.2020, c.45 further requires the DOC to provide to the
21 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in
22 advance of an inmate's release, the inmate's name, release date, and
23 contact information, including a telephone number or an email
24 address. This bill requires this information to also be provided to
25 the applicable regional nonprofit prisoner reentry program.

26 In addition, this bill authorizes inmates released from State and
27 county correctional facilities to use the address of a nonprofit
28 prisoner reentry program as a mailing address in an application for
29 benefits under Medicaid, SNAP, and Work First New Jersey.

30 Finally, the bill eliminates the provisions under current law
31 which prohibit persons convicted of an offense involving the use,
32 possession, or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance from
33 receiving Work First New Jersey benefits.

34 According to the sponsor, this bill is necessary to assist not only
35 those inmates currently being released from correctional facilities to
36 obtain housing, food, and other services, but also any additional
37 inmates who may be released pursuant to pending legislation
38 revising criminal sentencing laws.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2953

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 11, 2021

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2953.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill expands the scope of reentry services and benefits currently available to inmates released from incarceration in State and county correctional facilities.

The State's Fair Release and Reentry Act of 2009, recently amended by P.L.2020, c.45, requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to ensure inmates are provided within 10 days of their release from incarceration various documents, information, and other items to assist them in their reentry efforts, including non-driver identification cards and a two-week supply of prescription medicine. This bill extends the provisions of the act to also require inmates being released from county correctional facilities to be provided with these same documents, information, and items within 30 days of release. As amended by the committee, State correctional facilities would be required to issue a birth certificate to inmates at least 60 days prior to their release.

P.L.2020, c.45 amended the act to require that an inmate's DOC identification card be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and New Jersey nonprofit organizations for inmates to access reentry services during a public health or state of emergency. The bill continues to require this during the time of emergency, but also requires that agencies and organizations accept these cards for six months after the inmate is released, as well as extend the provision to apply to county correctional facility identification cards during emergencies and six months after release.

P.L.2020, c.45 also required the DOC to supply, in addition to two weeks of prescription medication, an additional 30 day prescription order and two additional refills to inmates released during the 2020 public health emergency or state of emergency. This bill makes this requirement permanent and extends it to county correctional facilities. As amended by the committee, the bill clarifies that these refills are to include long-acting injectables. Opioid blockers often are injected.

The bill further amends the act to require the DOC to issue to inmates being released a benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining benefits under the Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Work First New Jersey programs and extends this requirement to county correctional facilities.

Another provision of P.L.2020, c.45 requires the DOC to ensure that an inmate is provided assistance in completing and forwarding for processing online applications for enrollment in Medicaid, SNAP, and Work First New Jersey 30 days before release. The Department of Human Services is required to accept and process these applications. The bill requires the commissioner to ensure that any required signatures or authorizations are to be obtained from the inmate when completing the applications. The bill also requires the address of the appropriate regional non-profit inmate reentry organization to be used for any inmate who is unable to identify a residence at the time of application for benefits, and requires all State, county, and municipal agencies to accept the address for the purposes of establishing proof of residence to meet any applicable eligibility requirements. This bill extends these requirements to the county correctional facilities.

Under the bill, an inmate who appears to be eligible for benefits under the Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's certification of income, resources, and family composition, and based on other information immediately available at the time of application, is to be deemed presumptively eligible for Work First New Jersey assistance and immediate need assistance and is to receive this assistance for a period of not less than 45 days following the inmate's release from incarceration.

P.L.2020, c.45 further requires the DOC to provide to the appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in advance of an inmate's release, the inmate's name, release date, and contact information, including a telephone number or an email address. The bill, as introduced, also requires this information to be provided to the applicable regional non-profit inmate reentry organization. As amended, the bill requires this information to be provided to the nonprofit prisoner reentry program approved by the Department of Community Affairs, rather than the applicable regional program, if the inmate's does not opt out.

In addition, this bill authorizes inmates released from State and county correctional facilities to use the address of a nonprofit prisoner reentry program as a mailing address in an application for benefits under Medicaid, SNAP, and Work First New Jersey.

Finally, the bill eliminates the provisions under current law which prohibit persons convicted of an offense involving the use, possession, or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance from receiving Work First New Jersey benefits.

According to the sponsor, this bill is necessary to assist not only those inmates currently being released from correctional facilities to obtain housing, food, and other services, but also any additional inmates who may be released pursuant to pending legislation revising criminal sentencing laws.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) require the Commissioner of Corrections to provide to each inmate at least 60 days prior to release a copy of the inmate's birth certificate, rather than the current 10 day requirement;

(2) clarify that refills include long-acting injectables; currently, the DOC is required to supply two weeks of prescription medication, an additional 30 day prescription order, and two additional refills to inmates released during the 2020 public health or state of emergency, a requirement made permanent and extended to county correctional facilities by the bill;

(3) require the commissioner, in advance of an inmate's release, to provide the inmate's name, release date, and contact information, including a telephone number or an email address, to each non-profit inmate reentry organization approved by the Department of Community Affairs if the inmate does not opt out; as introduced, the bill required this information to be provided to the applicable regional non-profit inmate reentry organization; and

(4) require the Governor to appoint an independent investigator to evaluate the commissioner's compliance with the provisions of P.L.2020, c.45 and this bill; the independent investigator is to report findings and conclusions to the Governor and the Legislature within six months of the bill's effective date.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 2953

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator SWEENEY)

ADOPTED: JUNE 3, 2021

Senate Bill No. 2953 (1R) expands the scope of reentry services and benefits currently available to inmates released from incarceration in State and county correctional facilities.

The bill requires that State and county correctional facilities supply inmates being released with a three-month supply of prescription medication, an additional 30 day prescription order, and two additional refills or long-acting injectables. These Senate amendments reduce the three-month supply to 30 days, require that a three-month supply of long acting injectables be provided, and continue to require two additional refills. The amendments stipulate that the counties are to receive an annual appropriation to cover the cost of these prescription medicines.

The Senate amendments also clarify that regional non-profit inmate reentry organizations are to be those within the purview of the Department of Community Affairs.

The Senate amendments limit the scope of the provisions of the bill applicable to county inmates to those county inmates who are incarcerated for 90 days or longer.

The Senate amendments authorize counties to appoint a county reentry coordinator to evaluate the needs of inmates in county correctional facilities, and assist them in accessing services deemed necessary pursuant to the evaluation. The county reentry coordinator also is to assist the inmate in obtaining a non-driver identification card and ensure that the inmate is released during regular business hours and is provided with the required prescription medication. The coordinator is required to collect and analyze data related to the services provided; develop peer counseling programs; meet with community stakeholders to establish best practices in preparing inmates for release and identifying available county services; and make recommendations for successful reentry. The amounts deemed necessary to support the county reentry coordinators are to be annually appropriated.

The scope of the independent investigator appointed by the Governor to evaluate the DOC's compliance with current law and the bill's provisions concerning reentry services and benefits is expanded by these amendments. The investigator is required by the amendments to also require the investigator to evaluate DOC's compliance with the provisions of current law regarding student financial aid to

incarcerated persons, the Dignity for Incarcerated Primary Caretaker Parents Act, and the Earn Your Way Out Act.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4785

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 8, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson

SYNOPSIS

Expands scope of inmate reentry assistance and benefits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/15/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning services for certain inmates and amending and
2 supplementing various parts of the statutory law.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.329 (C.30:1B-6.2) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to each
10 inmate at least 10 days prior to release from a State correctional
11 facility:

12 a. A copy of the inmate's criminal history record and written
13 information on the inmate's right to have his criminal records
14 expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;

15 b. General written information on the inmate's right to vote
16 under R.S.19:4-1;

17 c. General written information on the availability of programs,
18 including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in
19 removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in
20 vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not
21 limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted
22 Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the
23 certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-7 et
24 seq.);

25 d. A detailed written record of the inmate's participation in
26 educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment
27 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

28 e. A written accounting of the fines, assessments, surcharges,
29 restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any other
30 obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;

31 f. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2020, c.45)

32 g. A copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was
33 born in New Jersey;

34 h. Assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;

35 i. A one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;

36 j. A **[two-week]** three-month supply of prescription
37 medication and to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, an
38 additional 30 day prescription order and two additional refills;

39 k. General written information concerning child support,
40 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information
41 on how to seek child support payments and information on where to
42 seek services regarding child support, child custody, and
43 establishing parentage; and

44 l. (1) A medical discharge summary, which shall include
45 instructions on how to obtain from the commissioner a copy of the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 inmate's full medical record. Upon request from the inmate, the
2 commissioner shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical
3 record in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate.

4 (2) Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the
5 commissioner, in consultation with the State Board of Medical
6 Examiners, shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the
7 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
8 seq.), to ensure that these records are expeditiously and securely
9 provided, in a manner consistent with the provision of medical
10 records by other providers.

11 m. A benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining
12 benefits under the:

13 (1) Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
14 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);

15 (2) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
16 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
17 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

18 (3) Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
19 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for
20 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of
21 release, emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New
22 Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-
23 51).

24 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.1)

25

26 2. Section 2 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.15) is amended to
27 read as follows:

28 2. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide a non-
29 driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
30 Commission to each inmate, free of charge, as soon as practicable,
31 but not less than 10 days prior to the inmate's release from a State
32 correctional facility. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
33 shall issue the identification card and accept a former inmate's
34 Department of Corrections identification card as two points for the
35 purposes of applying for the identification card.

36 b. An inmate's Department of Corrections identification card
37 shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and
38 New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the
39 date of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to
40 gain access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible
41 including, but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

42 **【Whenever the】** c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection
43 b. of this section, whenever Motor Vehicle Commission agencies
44 are closed during a declared public health emergency, pursuant to
45 the "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et
46 seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251
47 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.), or both, the inmate's Department of
48 Corrections identification card shall be accepted by all State,

1 county, and municipal agencies and New Jersey [nonprofits]
2 nonprofit organizations in a manner as to allow the [releasee]
3 released inmate to gain access to services for which [they are] the
4 inmate is deemed eligible for the duration of the public health
5 emergency.

6 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.2)

7

8 3. Section 4 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.16) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 4. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall ensure that an
11 inmate is assisted with completing, obtaining any required
12 signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to
13 the Department of Human Services as soon as practicable but not
14 less than 30 days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration, an
15 online application for enrollment in the Medicaid program,
16 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

17 b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this
18 section, the Commissioner of Corrections shall also ensure that the
19 inmate is assisted in completing, obtaining any required signatures
20 or authorizations for, and forwarding for processing to the
21 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, as
22 soon as practicable but not less than 30 days prior to an inmate's
23 release from incarceration, online applications for enrollment in the
24 following programs:

25 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
26 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
27 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

28 (2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
29 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include , for
30 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of
31 release, the application for emergency assistance benefits issued to
32 Work First New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997,
33 c.14 (C.44:10-51).

34 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to
35 accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received
36 from the Department of Corrections pursuant to subsection a. of this
37 section.

38 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
39 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the Commissioner
40 of Corrections shall ensure that the address of the appropriate
41 regional non-profit inmate reentry organization is used for the
42 purposes of establishing proof of residence to meet any applicable
43 eligibility requirements.

44 e. All State, county, and municipal agencies, for the purposes
45 of establishing applicable eligibility requirements, shall:

46 (1) accept the address of the appropriate regional non-profit
47 inmate reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify
48 a residence at the time of application for benefits; and

1 (2) accept an inmate's Department of Corrections identification
2 card to establish the inmate's identity.

3 f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for benefits under the
4 Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's certification
5 of income, resources, and family composition, and based on other
6 information immediately available at the time of application, shall
7 be deemed presumptively eligible for Work First New Jersey
8 assistance and immediate need assistance and shall receive this
9 assistance for a period of not less than 45 days following the
10 inmate's release from incarceration.

11 (cf: P.L.2020, c.45, s.4)

12
13 4. Section 5 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.17) is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 5. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide to the
16 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in
17 advance of an inmate's release, the inmate's name, release date, and
18 contact information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a
19 telephone number or an email address.

20 b. The commissioner shall provide to the applicable regional
21 non-profit inmate reentry organization, in advance of an inmate's
22 release, the information required in subsection a. of this section.

23 (cf: P. L.2020, c.45, s.5)

24
25 5. (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden, or
26 keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to each
27 inmate at least 30 days prior to release from a facility:

28 (1) a copy of the inmate's criminal history record and written
29 information on the inmate's right to have the inmate's criminal
30 records expunged under chapter 52 of Title 2C of the New Jersey
31 Statutes;

32 (2) general written information on the inmate's right to vote
33 under R.S.19:4-1;

34 (3) general written information on the availability of programs,
35 including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in
36 removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in
37 vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not
38 limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted
39 Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the
40 certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-7 et
41 seq.);

42 (4) a detailed written record of the inmate's participation in
43 educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment
44 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;

45 (5) a written accounting of the fines, assessments, surcharges,
46 restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any other
47 obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;

- 1 (6) a copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was born
2 in New Jersey;
- 3 (7) assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;
- 4 (8) a one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;
- 5 (9) a three-month supply of prescription medication and, to the
6 extent consistent with clinical guidelines, an additional 30 day
7 prescription order and two additional refills;
- 8 (10) general written information concerning child support,
9 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information
10 on how to seek child support payments and information on where to
11 seek services regarding child support, child custody, and
12 establishing parentage;
- 13 (11) a medical discharge summary, which shall include
14 instructions on how to obtain from the superintendent a copy of the
15 inmate's full medical record; upon request from the inmate, the
16 superintendent shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical
17 record in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate; the
18 superintendent shall comply with rules and regulations, adopted
19 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
20 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), that ensure that these records are
21 expeditiously and securely provided in a manner consistent with the
22 provision of medical records by other providers; and
- 23 (12) a benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining
24 benefits under the:
- 25 (a) Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
26 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);
- 27 (b) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
28 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
29 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and
- 30 (c) Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
31 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for
32 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of
33 release, emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New
34 Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-
35 51).
- 36 b. If an inmate is at any time scheduled for release from a
37 county correctional facility in less than 30 days, the superintendent
38 shall comply with the provisions of subsection a. of this section at
39 least 48 hours prior to the inmate's release.
- 40
- 41 6. (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden, or
42 keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide a non-
43 driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
44 Commission to each county inmate, free of charge, as soon as
45 practicable, but not less than 10 days prior to the inmate's release
46 from the county correctional facility. The New Jersey Motor
47 Vehicle Commission shall issue the identification card and accept a

1 former inmate's county correctional facility identification card as
2 two points for the purposes of applying for the identification card.

3 b. An inmate's county correctional facility identification card
4 shall be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and
5 New Jersey nonprofit organizations for six months following the
6 date of release from incarceration to allow the released inmate to
7 gain access to services for which the inmate is deemed eligible
8 including, but not limited to, establishing the inmate's identity.

9 c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection b. of this
10 section, whenever the Motor Vehicle Commission agencies are
11 closed during a declared public health emergency, pursuant to the
12 "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et
13 seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant to P.L.1942, c.251
14 (C.App.A:9-33 et seq.), or both, the inmate's Department of
15 Corrections identification card shall be accepted by all State,
16 county, and municipal agencies and New Jersey nonprofit
17 organizations in a manner as to allow the released inmate to gain
18 access to services for which they are deemed eligible for the
19 duration of the public health emergency.

20

21 7. (New section) a. As soon as practicable but not less than 30
22 days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration, the chief
23 executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional
24 facility shall ensure that an inmate is assisted with completing,
25 obtaining any required signatures or authorizations for, and
26 forwarding for processing to the Department of Human Services an
27 online application for enrollment in the Medicaid program,
28 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

29 b. In addition to the requirements of subsection a. of this
30 section, the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper also shall
31 ensure that the inmate is assisted in completing, obtaining any
32 required signatures or authorizations for, and forwarding for
33 processing to the appropriate county welfare agency or board of
34 social services, as soon as practicable but not less than 30 days prior
35 to an inmate's release from incarceration, online applications for
36 enrollment in the following programs:

37 (1) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
38 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
39 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

40 (2) the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
41 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include , for
42 inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of
43 release, the application for emergency assistance benefits issued to
44 Work First New Jersey recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997,
45 c.14 (C.44:10-51).

46 c. The Department of Human Services shall be required to
47 accept and process the online applications for Medicaid received

1 from the Department of Corrections pursuant to subsection a. of this
2 section.

3 d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of
4 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the chief executive
5 officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall
6 ensure that the address of the appropriate regional non-profit inmate
7 reentry organization is used for the purposes of establishing proof
8 of residence to meet any applicable eligibility requirements.

9 e. All State, county, and municipal agencies, for the purposes
10 of establishing applicable eligibility requirements, shall:

11 (1) accept the address of the appropriate regional non-profit
12 inmate reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify
13 a residence at the time of application for benefits; and

14 (2) accept an inmate's county correctional facility identification
15 card to establish the inmate's identity.

16 f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for benefits under the
17 Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's certification
18 of income, resources, and family composition, and based on other
19 information immediately available at the time of application, shall
20 be deemed presumptively eligible for Work First New Jersey
21 assistance and immediate need assistance and shall receive this
22 assistance for a period of not less than 45 days following the
23 inmate's release from incarceration.

24

25 8. (New section) An inmate released from a State or county
26 correctional facility shall be authorized to use the address of a
27 nonprofit inmate reentry organization approved by the Department
28 of Community Affairs as a mailing address in an application for
29 benefits under the:

30 a. Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
31 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);

32 b. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
33 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
34 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

35 c. Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to
36 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.).

37

38 9. Section 5 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-48) is amended to read
39 as follows:

40 5. a. Only those persons who are United States citizens or
41 eligible aliens shall be eligible for benefits under the Work First
42 New Jersey program. Single adults or couples without dependent
43 children who are legal aliens who meet federal requirements and
44 have applied for citizenship, shall not receive benefits for more than
45 six months unless (1) they attain citizenship, or (2) they have passed
46 the English language and civics components for citizenship, and are
47 awaiting final determination of citizenship by the federal
48 Immigration and Naturalization Service.

1 b. The following persons shall not be eligible for assistance and
2 shall not be considered to be members of an assistance unit:

3 (1) non-needy caretakers, except that the eligibility of a
4 dependent child shall not be affected by the income or resources of
5 a non-needy caretaker;

6 (2) Supplemental Security Income recipients, except for the
7 purposes of receiving emergency assistance benefits pursuant to
8 section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51);

9 (3) illegal aliens;

10 (4) other aliens who are not eligible aliens;

11 (5) a person absent from the home who is incarcerated in a
12 federal, State, county or local corrective facility or under the
13 custody of correctional authorities, except as provided by regulation
14 of the commissioner;

15 (6) a person who: is fleeing to avoid prosecution, custody or
16 confinement after conviction, under the laws of the jurisdiction
17 from which the person has fled, for a crime or an attempt to commit
18 a crime which is a felony or a high misdemeanor under the laws of
19 the jurisdiction from which the person has fled; or is violating a
20 condition of probation or parole imposed under federal or state law;

21 (7) [a person convicted on or after August 22, 1996 under
22 federal or state law of any offense which is classified as a felony or
23 crime, as appropriate, under the laws of the jurisdiction involved
24 and which has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a
25 controlled substance as defined in section 102(6) of the federal
26 "Controlled Substances Act" (21 U.S.C. s.802 (6)), who would
27 otherwise be eligible for general public assistance pursuant to
28 P.L.1947, c.156 (C.44:8-107 et seq.); except that such a person who
29 is convicted of any such offense which has as an element the
30 possession or use only of such a controlled substance may be
31 eligible for Work First New Jersey general public assistance
32 benefits if the person enrolls in or has completed a licensed
33 residential or outpatient drug treatment program. An otherwise
34 eligible individual who has a past drug conviction shall be eligible
35 for general public assistance without enrolling in or completing a
36 drug treatment program if either: (1) an appropriate treatment
37 program is not available; or (2) the person is excused from enrolling
38 in a treatment program for good cause pursuant to regulation.

39 Eligibility for benefits for a person entering a licensed drug
40 treatment program which does not operate in a State correctional
41 facility or county jail shall commence upon the person's enrollment
42 in the drug treatment program, and shall continue during the
43 person's active participation in, and upon completion of, the drug
44 treatment program, except that during the person's active
45 participation in a drug treatment program and the first 60 days after
46 completion of a drug treatment program, the commissioner shall
47 provide for testing of the person to determine if the person is free of
48 any controlled substance. If the person is determined to not be free

1 of any controlled substance during the 60-day period, the person's
2 eligibility for benefits pursuant to this paragraph shall be
3 terminated; except that this provision shall not apply to the use of
4 prescription drugs by a person who is actively participating in a
5 drug treatment program, as prescribed by the drug treatment
6 program. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to carry out the
7 provisions of this paragraph, which shall include the criteria for
8 determining active participation in and completion of a drug
9 treatment program.

10 Eligibility for benefits for a person who completes a licensed
11 residential drug treatment program which operates in a State
12 correctional facility or county jail, in accordance with section 1 of
13 P.L.2014, c.1 (C.26:2B-40), shall commence upon release from
14 incarceration.

15 Cash benefits, less a personal needs allowance, for a person
16 receiving general public assistance benefits under the Work First
17 New Jersey program who is enrolled in and actively participating in
18 a licensed drug treatment program shall be issued directly to the
19 drug treatment provider to offset the cost of treatment. Upon
20 completion of the drug treatment program, the cash benefits shall be
21 then issued to the person. In the case of a delay in issuing cash
22 benefits to a person receiving Work First New Jersey general public
23 assistance benefits who has completed the drug treatment program,
24 the drug treatment provider shall transmit to the person those funds
25 received on behalf of that person after completion of the drug
26 treatment program; ~~] (Deleted by amendment, (P.L. , c.)~~
27 (pending before the Legislature as this bill

28 (8) a person found to have fraudulently misrepresented his
29 residence in order to obtain means-tested, public benefits in two or
30 more states or jurisdictions, who shall be ineligible for benefits for
31 a period of 10 years from the date of conviction in a federal or state
32 court; or

33 (9) a person who intentionally makes a false or misleading
34 statement or misrepresents, conceals or withholds facts for the
35 purpose of receiving benefits, who shall be ineligible for benefits
36 for a period of six months for the first violation, 12 months for the
37 second violation, and permanently for the third violation.

38 c. A person who makes a false statement with the intent to
39 qualify for benefits and by reason thereof receives benefits for
40 which the person is not eligible is guilty of a crime of the fourth
41 degree.

42 d. Pursuant to the authorization provided to the states under 21
43 U.S.C. s.862a(d)(1), this State elects to exempt from the application
44 of 21 U.S.C. s.862a(a):

45 (1) needy persons and their dependent children domiciled in
46 New Jersey for the purposes of receiving benefits under the Work
47 First New Jersey program and food assistance under the federal

1 "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-234 (7 U.S.C. s.2011
2 et seq.); and

3 (2) single persons and married couples without dependent
4 children domiciled in New Jersey for the purposes of receiving food
5 assistance under Pub.L.110-234.

6 (cf: P.L.2016, c.69, s.1)

7

8 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

9

10

11

STATEMENT

12

13 This bill expands the scope of reentry services and benefits
14 currently available to inmates released from incarceration in State
15 and county correctional facilities.

16 The State's Fair Release and Reentry Act of 2009, recently
17 amended by P.L.2020, c.45, requires the Department of Corrections
18 (DOC) to ensure inmates are provided within 10 days of their
19 release from incarceration various documents, information, and
20 other items to assist them in their reentry efforts, including non-
21 driver identification cards and a two-week supply of prescription
22 medicine. This bill extends the provisions of the act to also require
23 inmates being released from county correctional facilities to be
24 provided with these same documents, information, and items.

25 P.L.2020, c.45 amended the act to require that an inmate's DOC
26 identification card be accepted by all State, county, and municipal
27 agencies and New Jersey nonprofit organizations for inmates to
28 access reentry services during a public health or state of emergency.
29 The bill continues to require this during the time of emergency, but
30 also requires that agencies and organizations accept these cards for
31 six months after the inmate is released, as well as extend the
32 provision to apply to county correctional facility identification
33 cards during emergencies and six months after release.

34 P.L.2020, c.45 also required the DOC to supply, in addition to
35 two weeks of prescription medication, an additional 30 day
36 prescription order and two additional refills to inmates released
37 during the 2020 public health emergency or state of emergency.
38 This bill makes the requirement permanent and extends it to county
39 correctional facilities.

40 The bill further amends the act to require the DOC to issue to
41 inmates being released a benefits card approved for the purpose of
42 obtaining benefits under the Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition
43 Assistance Program (SNAP), and Work First New Jersey programs
44 and extends this requirement to county correctional facilities.

45 Another provision of P.L.2020, c.45 requires the DOC to ensure
46 that an inmate is assisted in completing and forwarding for
47 processing online applications for enrollment in Medicaid, SNAP,
48 and Work First New Jersey 30 days before release. The Department

1 of Human Services is required to accept and process these
2 applications. The bill requires the commissioner to ensure that any
3 required signatures or authorizations are to be obtained from the
4 inmate when completing the applications. The bill also requires the
5 address of the appropriate regional non-profit inmate reentry
6 organization to be used for any inmate who is unable to identify a
7 residence at the time of application for benefits, and requires all
8 State, county, and municipal agencies to accept the address for the
9 purposes of establishing proof of residence to meet any applicable
10 eligibility requirements. This bill extends these requirements to the
11 county correctional facilities.

12 Under the bill, an inmate who appears to be eligible for benefits
13 under the Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's
14 certification of income, resources, and family composition, and
15 based on other information immediately available at the time of
16 application, is to be deemed presumptively eligible for Work First
17 New Jersey assistance and immediate need assistance and is to
18 receive this assistance for a period of not less than 45 days
19 following the inmate's release from incarceration.

20 P.L.2020, c.45 further requires the DOC to provide to the
21 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in
22 advance of an inmate's release, the inmate's name, release date, and
23 contact information, including a telephone number or an email
24 address. This bill requires this information to also be provided to
25 the applicable regional nonprofit prisoner reentry program.

26 In addition, this bill authorizes inmates released from State and
27 county correctional facilities to use the address of a nonprofit
28 prisoner reentry program as a mailing address in an application for
29 benefits under Medicaid, SNAP, and Work First New Jersey.

30 Finally, the bill eliminates the provisions under current law
31 which prohibit persons convicted of an offense involving the use,
32 possession, or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance from
33 receiving Work First New Jersey benefits.

34 According to the sponsor, this bill is necessary to assist not only
35 those inmates currently being released from correctional facilities to
36 obtain housing, food, and other services, but also any additional
37 inmates who may be released pursuant to pending legislation
38 revising criminal sentencing laws.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4785

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 18, 2021

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4785.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill expands the scope of reentry services and benefits currently available to inmates released from incarceration in State and county correctional facilities.

The State's Fair Release and Reentry Act of 2009 requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to ensure inmates are provided within 10 days of their release from incarceration various documents, information, and other items to assist them in their reentry efforts, including non-driver identification cards and a two-week supply of prescription medicine. The amended bill revises the State reentry act to require the DOC to provide to inmates: the non-driver identification card at least 60 days prior to release; a 90-day supply of prescription medicine and two refills at least 10 days before release, unless the prescription medicine is suboxone, in which case a 90-day supply is required; and a benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining benefits under the Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Work First New Jersey programs 10 days before release.

The amended bill further requires an inmate's DOC identification card be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies and New Jersey nonprofit organizations for inmates to access reentry services for six months after the inmate is released.

Current law requires the DOC to ensure that an inmate is assisted in completing and forwarding for processing online applications for enrollment in Medicaid, SNAP, and Work First New Jersey 30 days before release; the Department of Human Services is required to accept and process these applications. The amended bill requires the DOC to additionally ensure inmates are assisted with obtaining any signatures or authorizations necessary to complete these applications. The address of the applicable Department of Community Affairs regional non-profit inmate reentry organization is to be used for any inmate who is unable to identify a residence at the time of application for benefits. All State, county, and municipal agencies are to accept the address for the purposes of establishing proof of residence to meet

any applicable eligibility requirements and accept an inmate's DOC identification card as proof of identity.

Under the amended bill, an inmate who appears to be eligible for benefits under the Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's certification of income, resources, family composition, as well as other information available at the time of application, is to be deemed presumptively eligible for Work First New Jersey and immediate need for assistance for at least 45 days after release.

Current law requires the DOC to provide to the appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in advance of an inmate's release, the inmate's name, release date, and contact information, including a telephone number or an email address. The amended bill requires this information to also be forwarded to the applicable Department of Community Affairs (DCA) regional non-profit inmate reentry organization, unless the inmate opts out. The amended bill also requires county correctional facilities to provide this information to the county welfare agency or board of social services, as well as the DCA regional non-profit inmate reentry organization.

The amended bill extends the provisions of the State reentry act to also require inmates being released from county correctional facilities to be provided with these same documents, information, and items within 30 days of release. The non-driver identification card is to be provided to county inmates 10 days before release and is to be accepted by all State, county, and municipal agencies for six months after release and during a state of emergency. The county correctional facilities also are to provide to inmates assistances in completing applications for the Medicaid, SNAP, and Work First programs.

The amended bill authorizes counties to appoint a county reentry coordinator to evaluate the needs of inmates in county correctional facilities, and assist them in accessing services deemed necessary pursuant to the evaluation. The county reentry coordinator also is to assist the inmate in obtaining a non-driver identification card and ensure that the inmate is released during regular business hours and is provided with the required prescription medication. The coordinator is required to collect and analyze data related to the services provided; develop peer counseling programs; meet with community stakeholders to establish best practices in preparing inmates for release and identifying available county services; and make recommendations for successful reentry. The amounts deemed necessary to support the county reentry coordinators are to be annually appropriated.

In addition, the amended bill authorizes inmates released from State and county correctional facilities to use the address of a Department of Community Affairs nonprofit prisoner reentry program as a mailing address in an application for benefits under Medicaid, SNAP, and Work First New Jersey.

The bill further eliminates the provisions under current law which prohibit persons convicted of an offense involving the use, possession,

or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance from receiving Work First New Jersey benefits.

Finally, the amended bill requires the Governor to appoint an independent investigator to evaluate the DOC's compliance with the provisions of this bill, as well as with current law regarding student financial aid to incarcerated persons; the Dignity for Incarcerated Primary Caretaker Parents Act.; Earn Your Way Out Act; and required reentry services and benefits. The investigator has six months to issue a report of findings and conclusions to the Governor and the Legislature.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) require the Commissioner of Corrections to provide to each inmate at least 60 days prior to release a copy of the inmate's birth certificate, rather than the current 10 day requirement;

(2) require a 30-day supply of prescription medication be supplied to the inmate, except if the prescription is for suboxone, a 90-day supply is required, rather than a two-week supply; this requirement is extended to the county correctional facility inmates;

(3) require the commissioner, in advance of an inmate's release, to provide the inmate's name, release date, and contact information, including a telephone number or an email address, to the applicable Department of Community Affairs non-profit inmate reentry organization approved by the Department of Community Affairs if the inmate does not opt out; as introduced, the bill required this information to be provided to the applicable regional non-profit inmate reentry organization and did not include the opt out provision;

(4) authorizes counties to appoint a county reentry coordinator and establishes an annual appropriation deemed necessary to cover the costs of the coordinator; and

(5) require the Governor to appoint an independent investigator to evaluate the commissioner's compliance with the provisions of this bill, as well as with current law regarding student financial aid to incarcerated persons; the Dignity for Incarcerated Primary Caretaker Parents Act.; Earn Your Way Out Act; and required reentry services and benefits; the investigator is to report findings and conclusions to the Governor and the Legislature six months from the bill's effective date.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 4785

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblywoman QUIJANO)

ADOPTED: MAY 20, 2021

This bill expands the scope of reentry services and benefits currently available to inmates released from incarceration in State and county correctional facilities. Under the bill, State and county correctional facilities would be required to provide certain prescriptions to an inmate prior to release.

These Assembly amendments remove language that require the provision of a 90-day supply of suboxone and instead requires a three-month supply of long-acting injectables.

STATEMENT TO
[Second Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 4785

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblywoman QUIJANO)

ADOPTED: JUNE 3, 2021

Assembly Bill No. 4785 (2R) expands the scope of reentry services and benefits currently available to inmates released from incarceration in State and county correctional facilities.

In regard to county correctional facilities, the bill extends the provisions of the State's Fair Release and Reentry Act of 2009 to county correctional facilities. Pursuant to the act, the bill requires county inmates to be provided within 10 days of their release various documents, information, and other items to assist them in their reentry efforts. This includes a non-driver identification card, as well as a 30-day supply of prescription medication, a three-month supply of long-acting injectables, and two additional refills. These county inmates also are to be provided, at least 30 days before release, assistance in completing applications for various benefits, such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, and Work First New Jersey. Further, in advance of their release, the county correctional facilities are to provide the inmate's name, release date, and telephone number or email address to the appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, as well as to the applicable Department of Community Affairs regional non-profit inmate reentry organization.

These Assembly amendments limit the county inmates to which these provisions are applicable to those incarcerated for 90 days or longer. The amendments also provide for an annual appropriation to the counties to cover the cost of the prescription medicine that is to be supplied to these inmates upon release.

**SENATE BILL NO. 2953
(Second Reprint)**

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 2953 (Second Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

Senate Bill No. 2953 (Second Reprint) would make various revisions to P.L.2020, c.45, which was enacted into law last year following the Legislature's concurrence with my recommendations for reconsideration of Senate Bill No. 2331. P.L.2020, c.45 supports individuals newly released from incarceration by ensuring that they have access to the documents and social assistance that help to facilitate a successful transition back into the community. Among other things, Senate Bill No. 2953 (Second Reprint) would revise the 2020 law to increase the supply of prescription drugs to be provided to State inmates prior to release, from a two-week supply of medication to a 30-day supply of medication, a three-month supply of long-acting injectables, and, to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, two additional refills. Additionally, the bill would require the Department of Corrections ("department" or "DOC") Commissioner ("Commissioner") to provide a benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining benefits under Medicaid, Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ"), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP").

The bill would extend the law to require the chief executive officers, wardens, and keepers of county correctional facilities to provide inmates being released from county facilities after being incarcerated for 90 days or longer with the same information and documentation that is currently provided to inmates prior to release from State facilities. To further enhance the reentry services available to county inmates upon release, the bill requires each county to appoint a county reentry coordinator to evaluate the unique treatment and social services needs, and offer relevant information

and assistance, to each inmate in a county correctional facility in the State.

The bill also revises P.L.2020, c.45 to require that the Commissioner, chief executive officer, warden, or keeper, as appropriate, ensure that the address of an applicable regional non-profit inmate reentry organization is used for the purpose of establishing proof of residence on an application for benefits whenever an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of application. The bill also requires that all State, county, and municipal agencies accept the reentry organization's address as a valid residential address.

Finally, and perhaps most critically, the bill removes an outdated and counterproductive provision of law that prohibits an individual with a drug-related felony conviction from accessing general public assistance under WFNJ. I removed this restriction when I signed the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Appropriations Act into law and I support permanently removing it from our statutes.

I commend the sponsors of this legislation for seeking to enhance the resources available to former inmates as they re-enter society. This bill builds upon the progress of P.L.2020, c.45 in several important ways. As mentioned, it extends the law to cover county inmates and reinforces the commitment to focusing reentry efforts on our county correctional facilities by requiring every county to appoint a reentry coordinator. It also further improves the benefits application process in order to facilitate enrollment of eligible inmates.

However, some of the provisions of the bill replicate some of the same flaws that led me to conditionally veto Senate Bill No. 2331 prior to its enactment. As originally introduced, Senate Bill No. 2331 would have required DOC to provide inmates with a three-month supply of prescription medication upon release. My recommended

revisions, which were ultimately incorporated prior to the bill's enactment, removed this language to continue to provide inmates with a two-week supply of prescription medication, and allow for an additional 30-day prescription and two additional refills, to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, for the duration of the public health emergency and state of emergency declared in response to Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This bill again seeks to increase the amount of medication made available to an inmate upon release, this time to a 30-day supply of prescription medication and a three-month supply of long lasting injectables, plus two additional refills to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines.

Both DOC and the Department of Human Services ("DHS") have raised serious concerns about supplying inmates with more than a two-week supply of prescription medication. The days and weeks following release from incarceration are a particularly high-risk period for overdose death. A study in Washington State found that, in the two weeks following their release, people who had been incarcerated in State prisons were 129 times more likely to die from an overdose when compared to the general public. Another recent study published in the American Journal of Public Health determined that former inmates are 40 times more likely to die from an opioid overdose within two weeks of release. Accordingly, as I did with Senate Bill No. 2331, I offer recommendations to amend the bill to address this concern.

The bill's language requiring DOC and county correctional facilities to provide Medicaid, SNAP, and WFNJ benefits cards to inmates upon release is also unworkable, as neither DOC nor the county facilities govern these programs and therefore cannot issue the cards. Instead, pursuant to P.L.2020, c.45, DOC assists inmates with applying for Medicaid, SNAP, and WFNJ benefits and qualifying inmates are provided a confirmation number in their release packet. Importantly, the bill fails to recognize that eligible individuals are prohibited

from enrolling in Medicaid, WFNJ, and SNAP until they are no longer incarcerated. For individuals whose enrollment in Medicaid was paused during incarceration, the process is relatively seamless, as Medicaid can simply reenroll them, provided they remain eligible. For inmates not previously enrolled in Medicaid, DOC works with the inmate and DHS during the 30 days prior to release to process the application, so that eligibility can be established and suspended until the inmate is released from incarceration.

In the case of SNAP and WFNJ, the DOC assists individuals with the "One-App" application prior to release as part of an inmate's release plan. I have been advised by DHS that New Jersey is one of a handful of states that has secured a federal waiver to allow individuals who are incarcerated to apply for SNAP from prison during the 30 days prior to release. In addition, the DHS's recently updated application system enables county welfare agencies and boards of social services to more readily identify inmate applications so that agencies can process these applications and coordinate enrollment with dates of release.

I am therefore recommending several revisions to address these, and other related concerns. For example, I propose revising the bill's modifications to the prescription drug requirement to retain the two-week supply of prescription medication, while also allowing for a two-week prescription order with two additional refills, to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines. I am also recommending modifying the provisions related to reentry organizations to eliminate arbitrary restrictions on the reentry organizations that an inmate can use to establish residency, and to require an inmate's consent prior to using a reentry organization as the inmate's residential address. Recognizing that consent is meaningless unless each inmate is made aware of the opportunity, my recommendations also require the DOC and the county correctional facilities to ensure that

all State inmates and all county inmates incarcerated for 90 days or longer are educated on their ability to select a reentry organization as a residential address in the course of the benefits application process.

I am also recommending revisions that will require the Commissioner to assist inmates in obtaining their birth certificates at least 180 days prior to release, rather than requiring the Commissioner to provide the birth certificate no later than 60 days prior to release, as required in the bill. This will ensure that there is sufficient lead time for DOC to help secure the birth certificate prior to an inmate's date of release without creating opportunities for the document to be lost or stolen if the birth certificate is actually provided to the inmate two months prior to release.

Therefore, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 2953 (Second Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 33:</u> | After "bill)" insert "A copy of the inmate's birth certificate, as issued by the Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics, if the inmate was born in New Jersey;" |
| <u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 36:</u> | Delete "30-day" and insert "two-week" |
| <u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 37:</u> | Delete "a three-month supply of long-acting injectables," |
| <u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 38:</u> | After "guidelines," insert "a two-week prescription order with" |
| <u>Page 3, Section 1, Lines 15-27:</u> | Delete in their entirety |
| <u>Page 3, Section 2, Line 30:</u> | Delete "provide to" and insert "offer" |
| <u>Page 3, Section 2, Line 30:</u> | After "inmate" insert ", upon request" |
| <u>Page 3, Section 2, Line 30:</u> | Delete "60" and insert "180" |
| <u>Page 3, Section 2, Line 31:</u> | After "facility" insert ", assistance with obtaining" |
| <u>Page 3, Section 2, Line 31:</u> | After "certificate" insert ", as issued by the Department of |

	Health, Office of Vital Statistics,"
<u>Page 3, Section 2, Line 32:</u>	After "Jersey." insert "The commissioner shall ensure that all inmates who were born in New Jersey are notified of their ability to obtain the commissioner's assistance in accessing their birth certificates pursuant to this section."
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Line 1:</u>	After "shall" insert ", with the inmate's consent,"
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Line 1:</u>	After "of" delete "the" and insert "a"
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Line 2:</u>	Delete in its entirety
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Line 3:</u>	Delete "inmate"
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Line 4:</u>	After "requirements." insert "The commissioner shall ensure that all inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of application for benefits are educated on their ability to select the address of the reentry organization as a residential address pursuant to this subsection."
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Lines 7-8:</u>	Delete "applicable Department of Community Affairs regional non-profit inmate"
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Line 10:</u>	After "benefits" insert "in accordance with subsection d. of this section"
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Line 13:</u>	Delete "benefits under the"
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Lines 14-16:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Line 17:</u>	Delete "deemed presumptively eligible for"
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Line 17:</u>	After "assistance" insert "shall be screened for"
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Line 18:</u>	Before "immediate" delete "and"
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Line 18:</u>	Delete "and shall receive this assistance for a" and insert "."
<u>Page 5, Section 4, Lines 19-20:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 5, Section 5, Line 31:</u>	Delete in its entirety
<u>Page 5, Section 5, Line 32:</u>	Delete "non-profit inmate"
<u>Page 5, Section 5, Line 32:</u>	After "organization" insert "selected as a residential address pursuant to subsection d. of section 3 of this bill"

<u>Page 6, Section 6, Line 21:</u>	Delete "30-day" and insert "two-week"
<u>Page 6, Section 6, Line 22:</u>	Delete "a three-month supply of long-acting injectables,"
<u>Page 6, Section 6, Line 23:</u>	After "guidelines," insert "a two-week prescription order with"
<u>Page 6, Section 6, Line 30:</u>	After "parentage;" insert "and"
<u>Page 6, Section 6, Line 40:</u>	Delete "; and" and insert "."
<u>Page 6, Section 6, Lines 41-44:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 7, Section 6, Lines 1-8:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 7, Section 8, Line 29:</u>	After "shall" insert ", with the inmate's consent,"
<u>Page 7, Section 7, Line 29:</u>	Delete "applicable"
<u>Page 7, Section 7, Line 30:</u>	Delete in its entirety
<u>Page 7, Section 7, Line 31:</u>	After "organization" insert "selected as a residential address pursuant to subsection d. of section 3 of this bill"
<u>Page 7, Section 9, Line 36:</u>	Delete "The chief executive officer,"
<u>Page 7, Section 9, Lines 37-41:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 7, Section 9, Lines 42-43:</u>	Delete "issue the identification card and"
<u>Page 7, Section 9, Line 45:</u>	Delete "the" and insert "a non-driver"
<u>Page 8, Section 10, Line 26:</u>	After "that" delete "the" and insert "such"
<u>Page 8, Section 10, Line 44:</u>	Delete "Department of Corrections" and insert "county correctional facilities"
<u>Page 8, Section 10, Line 47:</u>	After "facility" insert ", with the inmate's consent,"
<u>Page 8, Section 10, Line 48:</u>	Delete "appropriate regional non-profit inmate"
<u>Page 9, Section 10, Line 2:</u>	After "requirements." insert "The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall ensure that all inmates incarcerated for 90 days or longer are educated on their ability to select a reentry organization as a residential address pursuant to this subsection."
<u>Page 9, Section 10, Line 5:</u>	Delete "appropriate regional non-profit inmate"

Page 9, Section 10, Line 10: Delete "benefits under the"

Page 9, Section 10, Lines 11-13: Delete in their entirety

Page 9, Section 10, Line 14: Delete "deemed presumptively eligible for"

Page 9, Section 10, Line 14: After "assistance" insert "shall be screened for"

Page 9, Section 10, Line 15: Before "immediate" delete "and"

Page 9, Section 10, Line 15: Delete "and shall receive this assistance for a" and insert "."

Page 9, Section 10, Lines 16-17: Delete in their entirety

Page 11, Section 11, Line 5: Insert "f. The county reentry coordinator shall consult and coordinate with the county board of social services or welfare agency, as appropriate, when providing information or assistance with respect to a benefit or service administered by the board or welfare agency."

Page 11, Section 14, Line 40: Delete "regularly" and insert "annually"

Page 12, Section 16, Line 35: Delete "nonprofit inmate"

Page 12, Section 16, Lines 35-36: Delete "approved by the Department of Community Affairs"

Page 12, Section 16, Line 44: After "seq.) insert ", provided the inmate consents to the use of the reentry organization's address as their mailing address"

Page 15, Section 18, Lines 18-26: Delete in their entirety

Page 15, Section 19, Line 28: Delete "19." and insert "18."

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

11/8/2021

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

S-249/A-1259 (Singleton, Turner/Schaer, DeCroce, Vainieri Huttle) – Requires pharmacy benefits manager providing services within Medicaid program to disclose certain information to DHS

S-324/A-3533 (Diegnan, A.M. Bucco/Benson, Freiman, DeCroce) – Authorizes operators of motor vehicles to display electronic proof of registration; requires MVC to send application for registration renewal to lessee of leased vehicle

SCS for S-399 and 1645/ACS for A-869 and 1380 (Lagana, Weinberg, Stack, Turner, Cunningham/Chiaravalloti, Holley) – Requires residential landlords to install covers on steam radiators upon request of tenant

S-537/A-3110 (Codey/McKeon, Verrelli, Vainieri Huttle) – Establishes certain minimum and maximum temperatures in rooming and boarding houses, dementia care homes, and certain nursing homes and residential health care facilities

S-550/A-1616 (Codey, Pennacchio/Lampitt, Conaway, Vainieri Huttle) – Requires certain student identification cards to contain telephone number for suicide prevention hotline

SCS for S-647/A-4825 (Greenstein, Singleton/McKeon, Karabinchak, Stanley) – Revises cybersecurity, asset management, and related reporting requirements in “Water Quality Accountability Act”

S-828/A-2101 (Lagana, Greenstein/Swain, Tully, Verrelli) – Requires public utilities and local units to provide notice prior to initiating certain infrastructure projects

S-829/A-2135 (Lagana, Singleton/Tully, Swain, Murphy) – Requires property condition disclosure statement to indicate presence of lead plumbing in residential property

S-830/A-2134 (Lagana, Greenstein/Tully, Swain, Conaway) – Requires public water systems to offer drinking water tests to customers in certain circumstances

S-894/A-3874 (Pou, Greenstein/Lopez, Vainieri Huttle) – Prohibits sale of paint or coating removal products that contain methylene chloride unless purchaser meets certain safety standards for use

S-1010/A-2103 (Lagana, Turner/Swain, Tully, Johnson) – Permits counties and municipalities to bond for alternative fuel vehicles

S-1047/A-1712 (Cryan, Pou/Burzichelli, Karabinchak, Giblin) – Concerns disclosure of certain information prior to sale of real estate

S-1148/A-1221 (Ruiz, Pou/Chaparro, Speight, Wimberly) – Requires emergency contact information and access instructions for social services hotline to be provided to tenants of multiple dwellings

S-1239/A-5131 (Codey/McKeon, Danielsen, Jasey) – Authorizes imposition of fee for connection to municipal electric distribution system

S-1259/A-2628 (Singleton/Murphy) – Concerns labor contractors

S-1726/A-795 (Lagana, Pou/Verrelli, Swain, Zwicker) – Prohibits sale of cosmetic products that have been tested on animals

- S-2727/A-4775 (Pennacchio, Pou/Vainieri Huttle, Jasey, McKnight)** – Establishes Multigenerational Family Housing Continuity Commission; provides municipal guidance to periodically analyze local advancement of commission’s senior citizen housing recommendations
- S-2861/A-5390 (Singleton, Addiego/Quijano, McKnight, Speight)** – Concerns certain restrictive covenants on real property
- S-2996/A-5019 (Testa, Sweeney/McClellan, Taliaferro, Johnson)** – Allows Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling licensees to operate mobile facilities when providing services
- S-3000/A-4688 (Weinberg, Greenstein/Benson, Verrelli, Vainieri Huttle)** – Codifies and establishes certain network adequacy standards for pediatric primary and specialty care in Medicaid program
- S-3032/A-4855 (Sweeney, Vitale/Benson, Vainieri Huttle, Chiaravalloti)** – Requires DOH to develop Statewide plan for infection control and prevention infrastructure improvements in nursing homes
- S-3091/A-4933 (Addiego, Bateman/Burzichelli, Benson, Mukherji)** – Requires builders to offer unit concrete products that utilize carbon footprint-reducing technology as option in new construction; establishes tax incentives, and State and local purchasing requirements, for unit concrete products that utilize carbon footprint-reducing technology
- S-3253/A-2619 (Singleton, Ruiz/Murphy, Speight, Mukherji)** – Establishes alternate route to expedite certification of teachers at early college high school programs
- S-3318/A-5893 (Sweeney, Pou/Vainieri Huttle, Caputo, Karabinchak)** – Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for Special Olympics New Jersey
- S-3590/A-5536 (Diegnan, Turner/Burzichelli, Giblin)** – Allows formation of limited liability companies by real estate salespersons and broker-salespersons to receive commission income and requires certain disclosures on promotions
- S-3811/A-5769 (Sweeney, Scutari/Reynolds-Jackson, Quijano, Carter)** – Establishes Kean University as public urban research university
- S-3948/A-5896 (Addiego, Gopal/Houghtaling, Downey)** – Authorizes supplemental State aid to school districts receiving certain federal Impact Aid; makes appropriation
- SJR-41/AJR-33 (Cruz-Perez, Addiego/Lopez, McKnight)** – Designates June 2 of each year as “Gun Violence Awareness Day”
- SJR-109/AJR-208 (Weinberg, Pou/McKnight, Benson, Vainieri Huttle)** – Condemns hate and violent extremism and commits to defense of safe and just democracy
- A-637/S-2670 (Caputo, Dancer, Houghtaling/Beach)** – Revises permit and license processes for sports pools operators and online sports pool operators; revises definitions of certain sports events; allows for transactional waiver for sports wagering lounge
- A-853/S-797 (Chiaravalloti, Karabinchak, McKnight/Cunningham, Doherty)** – Prohibits municipal licensure of children operating temporary businesses
- A-2311/S-356 (Calabrese, Jasey/Cryan, Codey)** – Establishes study commission to examine development of mutually beneficial relationships between institutions of higher education and municipalities
- A-3027/S-793 (Lampitt, Jasey, Houghtaling/Cunningham, Singleton)** – Commits \$3 million from Supplemental Workforce Fund for Basic Skill to NJ Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development
- ACS for A-3352/S-3504 (Kennedy, Stanley, Calabrese/Smith)** – Requires certain newly constructed warehouses to be solar-ready buildings

A-3897/S-3263 (Armato, Mazzeo, DiMaso/Beach, Gopal) – Increases fee for New Jersey Waterfowl Stamps

A-4138/S-2701 (Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Giblin/Gopal, Codey) – Requires Department of Human Services to develop public emergency response plan for licensed providers of services to individuals with developmental disabilities

A-4367/S-2794 (Mukherji, Sumter, Taliaferro/Pou, Scutari) – Provides that AOC shall administer program for municipal courts allowing defendants to engage in online plea negotiations, entry of guilty plea, and payment of fine or penalty

A-4484/S-3153 (McKnight, Kennedy, Mukherji, Gove/Pou, Vitale) – Requires State Long-Term Care Ombudsman to establish long-term care advocacy and educational training program

A-4538/S-3131 (Lampitt, Quijano/Pou, A.M. Bucco) – Requires dental insurers to provide credits for reduced usage during coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic

A-4544/S-3150 (Caputo, Jasey, Murphy/Pou, Codey) – Permits school nurse who is retired from TPAF to return to employment for up to two years without reenrollment in TPAF

A-4633/S-2856 (Giblin, DeCroce/Pou) – Permits certain nonresident Certified Public Accountants to provide attest services

A-4831/S-3953 (Chaparro, Kennedy, Murphy/Scutari) – Clarifies classification in this State of criminal offenses committed in other states or under federal law

A-4836/S-3313 (Giblin, Benson, Downey/Pou, Turner) – Establishes task force to evaluate quality, efficacy, costs, and educational outcomes of online courses offered by public and independent institutions of higher education and degree-granting proprietary institutions during COVID-19 pandemic

A-4861/S-3041 (Vainieri Huttle, Armato, Verrelli/Vitale, Gopal) – Requires DOH to publish total number of COVID-19 deaths and cases in long-term care facilities

A-4869/S-2414 (Wirths, Verrelli, Space/Singleton, Madden) – Requires certain bidders for prevailing wage public work to provide proof that prevailing wage will be paid

A-5059/S-3031 (Conaway, Vainieri Huttle, Benson/Sweeney, Vitale) – Requires DOH to establish certain nursing education and professional advancement programs

A-5212/S-3638 (Conaway, Verrelli, Karabinchak/Turner, Diegnan) – Permits dentists to administer vaccines under certain circumstances

A-5751/S-3823 (Swain, Timberlake, Carter, Johnson/Weinberg, Gopal) – Expands State corrections officers training to include topics contributing to their core mission of treating inmates with dignity, fairness, and respect

A-5817/S-3852 (Tully, Swain, Benson/Lagana, Diegnan) – Revises violation and fines for approving or assigning unauthorized individuals as school bus drivers

A-5818/S-3849 (Tully, Swain, Benson/Lagana, Diegnan) – Provides for debarment of school bus contractors for certain violations; requires certain information in pupil transportation contract bid

AJR-204/SJR-105 (Jasey, Benson, Reynolds-Jackson/Cunningham, T. Kean) – Designates April of each year as “Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Month” in New Jersey

AJR-238/SJR-123 (Burzichelli/Sweeney, Singleton) – Urges U.S. President and EPA to take appropriate action, through waivers and other reforms, to allow blending of renewable fuels under the federal “Clean Air Act”

Governor Murphy conditionally vetoed the following bills:

S-108/A-169 (Gill, Turner/Caputo, Wirths) – **CONDITIONAL** - Concerns speech rights of student journalists at public schools and public institutions of higher education

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S-2078/A-5008 (Weinberg, Addiego/Lampitt, Benson, Vainieri Huttle) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes “Stillbirth Resource Center” and regional Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Committee, and programs for the prevention and reduction of incidences of stillbirth; expands list of professionals authorized to provide stillbirth-related care

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S-2160/A-5701 (Sweeney, Oroho, Singer/Carter, Lampitt, Jasey) – CONDITIONAL - Creates special education unit within the Office of Administrative Law; requires annual report

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S-2525/A-4274 (Rice, Singleton, Turner/Conaway, Sumter, Stanley) – CONDITIONAL - Expands powers and duties of State Chief Diversity Officer to promote diversity in State government and public contracting

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S-2559/ACS for A-4179 and 4200 (Gopal, Gill/Downey, Conaway, Benson, Houghtaling, Karabinchak) – CONDITIONAL - Revises requirements for health insurance providers and Medicaid to cover services provided using telemedicine and telehealth; appropriates \$5 million

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S-2834/A-5312 (Ruiz, Cunningham/Quijano, Lampitt, McKnight) – CONDITIONAL - Mandates training on culturally responsive teaching for all candidates for teaching certification

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S-2953/A-4785 (Sweeney, Cunningham/Quijano, Verrelli, Mukherji) – CONDITIONAL - Expands scope of inmate reentry assistance and benefits

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S-3238/A-5213 (Ruiz, Pou/Verrelli, McKnight, McKeon) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes New Jersey Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program

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S-3488/A-5537 (Sweeney, Gopal, O'Scanlon/Burzichelli, Dancer, Spearman) – CONDITIONAL - Modifies certain procedures pertaining to school district regionalization; establishes grant program for cost reimbursement of conducting regionalization feasibility studies; and provides financial incentives for regionalization

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S-3867/A-5868 (Addiego, Singleton/Benson, Verrelli, Vainieri Huttle) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund and Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council; provides for funds received from opioid settlements to support substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs

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S-3955/A-5905 (Ruiz/Timberlake, Speight, Spearman) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes “Rental Assistance Navigation Program” in DCA; makes appropriation

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A-1533/S-3321 (Spearman, Reynolds-Jackson, Schaer/Stack, Turner) – CONDITIONAL - Requires reservation of portion of tenant-based vouchers under State rental assistance program for persons displaced due to redevelopment of an affordable housing development; provides displaced persons with affordable housing priority status

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A-2455/S-2204 (Benson, Vainieri Huttle, DeAngelo/Greenstein, Oroho) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes pilot program in DOE to support FIRST Robotics Programs in school districts

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A-3062/S-1196 (Pintor Marin, Moen, Reynolds-Jackson/Pou, Cruz-Perez) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes three year Financial Empowerment Pilot Program

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A-4002/S-2257 (Caputo, Dancer, Murphy/Gopal, Sarlo) – CONDITIONAL - Allows deduction of promotional gaming credit from gross revenue on sports wagering

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A-4433/S-2715 (Greenwald, Mukherji, Lampitt/Beach, Corrado) – CONDITIONAL - Creates grant program to encourage school districts to partner with institutions of higher education in training school-based mental health services providers

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A-4435/S-2717 (Verrelli, Greenwald, Speight, Lampitt/Beach, Corrado) – CONDITIONAL - Requires DCF to give priority to certain school districts with student mental health counseling centers in awarding grants under School Based Youth Services Program

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A-4630/S-577 (Burzichelli/Madden, Singleton) – CONDITIONAL - Concerns labor harmony agreements in retail and distribution center projects

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A-4746/S-3947 (Mosquera, Lopez, Chaparro, Dunn/Vitale, Turner) – CONDITIONAL - Requires that certain provider subsidy payments for child care services be based on enrollment

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A-4834/S-3474 (Mazzeo, Quijano, Downey/Pou, Turner) – CONDITIONAL - Requires disclosure letter be included with mail falsely implying State government connection

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A-4850/S-3095 (Karabinchak, Freiman, Calabrese, Greenwald/Diegnan) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes expedited construction inspection program

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A-5033/S-3279 (Benson, Dancer, Verrelli/Gopal) – CONDITIONAL - Authorizes motor vehicle dealers to sell motor vehicles online and obtain electronic signatures for motor vehicle transactions

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A-5353/S-3421 (Conaway, Vainieri Huttle, Benson/Madden, Turner) – CONDITIONAL - Provides for certification of temporary nurse aides

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A-5599/S-3916 (Chiaravalloti, Vainieri Huttle, McKnight/Scutari, Gill) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes order of protection for current or former judge; upgrades and clarifies harassment against current or former judge; bars firearms possession by persons against whom current or former judge order of protection is entered

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A-5864/S-3939 (Speight, Pintor Marin, Chaparro, McKnight, DeAngelo, Bergen/Gopal, Cryan) – CONDITIONAL - Allows law enforcement officers to review body worn camera recordings prior to creating initial report

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Governor Murphy absolute vetoed the following bills:

S-415/A-4685 (Turner/Quijano, Verrelli) – ABSOLUTE - Requires reentry assistance to be provided to certain inmates who have served their maximum sentence

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S-969/ACS for A-2687 (Ruiz, Turner/Mazzeo, Lampitt, Moen) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes loan redemption program for teachers in certain fields to redeem loan amounts received under New Jersey College Loans to Assist State Students Loan Program through employment in certain low performing schools

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S-2261/A-4265 (Singleton/Conaway) – ABSOLUTE - Revises law relating to common interest communities

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S-2347/A-4030 (Sweeney, Greenstein, T. Kean/Mukherji, Benson, Murphy) – ABSOLUTE - Establishes Employment and Business-Related Tax Deferral Assistance Program in EDA to allow small businesses to defer the payment and remittance of certain employment and business-related taxes during COVID-19 public health emergency

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S-3093/A-4910 (Gopal, Sweeney, Singleton/Burzichelli, Johnson, Danielsen) – ABSOLUTE - Establishes county-based mitigation plan to allow businesses to operate during pandemic

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S-3505/A-5371 (Scutari, Weinberg/Mukherji, Johnson, Quijano) – ABSOLUTE - Requires assignment of unemployment claims handlers to legislative districts and partisan offices during COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency; appropriates \$1.8 million

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S-3868/A-5895 (Sarlo/Giblin) – ABSOLUTE - Concerns construction code enforcing agency fee revenue

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A-2722/S-1862 (Mukherji/Gopal, Oroho) – ABSOLUTE - Requires Commissioner of Corrections to institute 30-minute shift overlap in State correctional facilities

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A-4297/S-2631 (Houghtaling, Downey, Space/Gopal, Oroho) – ABSOLUTE - Permits conduct of bingos and raffles remotely; permits online sale of tickets for all bingos and raffles

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A-5231/S-3806 (Lopez, Coughlin, Freiman/Vitale) – ABSOLUTE - Allows county or municipal governing body to enter into revenue sharing agreement for alcoholic beverage sales by concessionaire permit holder

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Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

12/21/2021

TRENTON - Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

S-108/A-169 wGR (Gill, Turner/Caputo, Wirths) - Concerns speech rights of student journalists at public schools and public institutions of higher education

S-2834/A-5312 wGR (Ruiz, Cunningham/Quijano, Lampitt, McKnight) - Mandates training on culturally responsive teaching for all candidates for teaching certification

S-2953/A-4785 wGR (Sweeney, Cunningham/Quijano, Verrelli, Mukherji) - Expands scope of inmate reentry assistance and benefits

S-3955/A-5905 wGR (Ruiz, Pou/Timberlake, Speight, Spearman) - Establishes "Rental Assistance Navigation Program" in DCA; makes appropriation

S-3994/A-5943 (Sweeney/Greenwald, Mazzeo, Armato, Murphy) - Temporarily modifies taxes and credits of casino licensees; permanently redefines promotional gaming credits to include certain coupons and table game wagers; requires priority funding for senior and disabled transportation services

S-4007/A-5587 (Sweeney/Greenwald) - Concerns matters related to operations and obligations of casino gaming properties and finances of Atlantic City

S-4078/A-5974 (Greenstein, Corrado/Carter, Stanley, Chaparro) - Modifies lists of projects eligible to receive loans for environmental infrastructure projects from NJ Infrastructure Bank for FY2022

S-4147/A-6216 (Beach, Turner, Tucker, Verrelli, Caputo) - Appropriates \$16,380,595 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to NJ Historic Trust for grants for certain historic preservation projects and associated administrative expenses

S-4274/A-6170 (Sweeney/McKeon) - Provides supplemental appropriations of \$500,000 to the Apportionment Commission and \$500,000 to the New Jersey Redistricting Commission

A-2455/S-2204 wGR (Benson, Vainieri Huttel, DeAngelo/Greenstein, Oroho) - Establishes pilot program in DOE to support robotics programs in school districts

A-3062/S-1196 wGR (Pintor Marin, Moen, Reynolds-Jackson/Pou, Cruz-Perez) - Establishes three year Financial Empowerment Pilot Program

A-4433/S-2715 wGR (Greenwald, Mukherji, Lampitt/Beach, Corrado) - Creates grant program to encourage school districts to partner with institutions of higher education in training school-based mental health services providers

A-4435/S-2717 wGR (Verrelli, Greenwald, Speight, Lampitt/Beach, Corrado) - Requires DCF to give priority to certain school districts with student mental health counseling centers in awarding grants under School Based Youth Services Program

A-4746/S-3947 wGR (Mosquera, Lopez, Chaparro, Dunn/Vitale, Turner) - Requires that certain provider subsidy payments for child care services be based on enrollment

A-4834/S-3474 wGR (Mazzeo, Quijano, Downey/Pou, Turner) - Prohibits mail falsely implying State government connection

A-5353/S-3421 wGR (Conaway, Vainieri Huttle, Benson/Madden, Turner) - Provides for certification of temporary nurse aides

A-5599/S-3916 wGR (Chiaravalloti, Vainieri Huttle, McKnight/Scutari, Gill) - Establishes order of protection for judicial officer; upgrades and clarifies harassment against judicial officer; bars firearms possession by persons against whom judicial officer order of protection is entered

A-5975/S-4079 (Calabrese, Tucker, Mejia/Bateman, Smith) – Amends list of environmental infrastructure projects approved for long-term funding for FY2022; makes various changes to FY2022 environmental infrastructure funding program

A-5998/S-4098 (Mukherji, Coughlin/Sweeney) - Permits deferred retirement from JRS for member appointed as Administrative Director of the Courts by Chief Justice of Supreme Court

A-6072/S-4169 (Egan, Coughlin, Danielsen/Vitale, Smith) - Increases number of hospitals eligible for highest amount of charity care subsidy payment; appropriates \$30 million