

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2331

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 9, 2020

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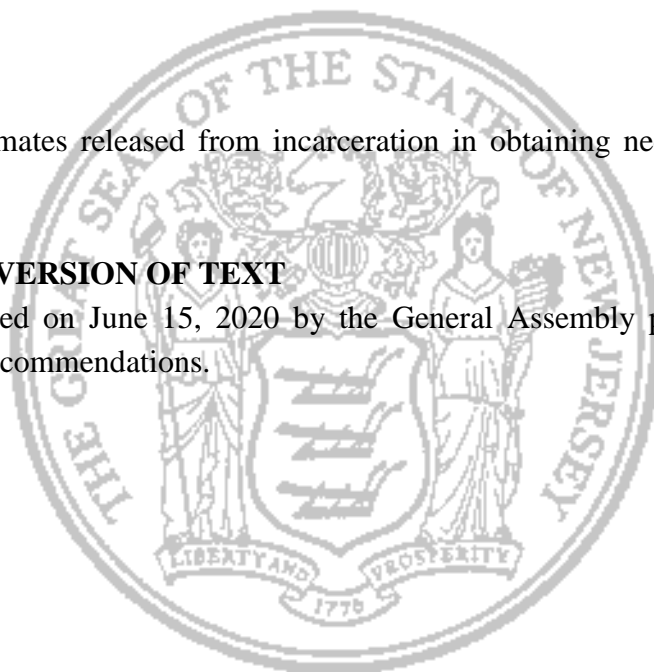
**Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Senators Pou
and Ruiz**

SYNOPSIS

Assists inmates released from incarceration in obtaining necessary reentry benefits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended on June 15, 2020 by the General Assembly pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/15/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning inmate reentry, amending P.L.2009, c.329, and
 2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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 **[ten]** ¹**[30]** ¹10 days prior to release from a State
 11 correctional 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. **[A non-driver identification card, which shall be issued by**
 32 **the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission and for which the**
 33 **Motor Vehicle Commission shall accept a former inmate's**
 34 **Department of Corrections identification card to have a two-point**
 35 **value in applying for the non-driver identification card;]** Deleted by
 36 amendment, P.L. c. (pending before the Legislature as this
 37 bill)

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

40 h. Assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;

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

42 j. A **[two-week]** ¹**[three-month]** two-week¹ supply of
 43 prescription medication;

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:

¹Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's
 recommendations June 15, 2020.

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

6 1. (1) A medical discharge summary, which shall include
7 instructions on how to obtain from the commissioner a copy of the
8 inmate's full medical record. Upon request from the inmate, the
9 commissioner shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical
10 record in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate.

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

18 (cf: P.L.2011, c.191, s.1)

19
20 2. (New section) The Commissioner of Corrections shall
21 provide a non-driver identification card ¹issued by the New Jersey
22 Motor Vehicle Commission¹ to each inmate, free of charge, as soon
23 as practicable, but not less than ¹~~45~~ ¹10 days prior to the inmate's
24 release from a State correctional facility. The New Jersey Motor
25 Vehicle Commission shall issue the identification card and accept a
26 former inmate's Department of Corrections identification card as
27 two points for the purposes of applying for the identification card.
28 Whenever the ¹~~Governor orders~~¹ Motor Vehicle Commission
29 agencies ¹~~to close~~ ¹are closed¹ during a declared public health
30 emergency, pursuant to the "Emergency Health Powers Act,"
31 P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.), a state of emergency, pursuant
32 to P.L.1942, c.251 (C.App.A.9-33 et seq.), or both, the
33 ¹~~Commissioner of Corrections shall directly issue these~~
34 ~~identification cards to inmates~~ ¹inmate's Department of Corrections
35 identification card shall be accepted by all State, county, and
36 municipal agencies and New Jersey nonprofits in a manner as to
37 allow the releasee to gain access to services for which they are
38 deemed eligible for the duration of the public health emergency¹.

39
40 ¹3. (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden, or
41 keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to each
42 inmate at least 30 days prior to release from a county correctional
43 facility:

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

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

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

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

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

17 (6) a copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was born
18 in New Jersey;

19 (7) assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;

20 (8) a one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;

21 (9) a three-month supply of prescription medication;

22 (10) general written information concerning child support,
23 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information
24 on how to seek child support payments and information on where to
25 seek services regarding child support, child custody, and
26 establishing parentage; and

27 (11) a medical discharge summary, which shall include
28 instructions on how to obtain from the superintendent a copy of the
29 inmate's full medical record; upon request from the inmate, the
30 superintendent shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical
31 record in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate; the
32 superintendent shall comply with rules and regulations, adopted
33 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
34 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), that ensure that these records are
35 expeditiously and securely provided i
36 n a manner consistent with the provision of medical records by
37 other providers.

38 b. If an inmate is at any time scheduled for release from a
39 county correctional facility in less than 30 days, the superintendent
40 shall comply with the provisions of subsection a. of this section at
41 least 48 hours prior to the inmate's release.】¹

42
43 ¹3. (New section) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or
44 regulation to the contrary, during the Public Health Emergency or
45 State of Emergency declared by the Governor in Executive Order
46 103 of 2020, in addition to the two-week supply of medication
47 provided to an inmate prior to release from a State correctional
48 facility pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2009, c.329 (C.30:1B-6.2), and

1 to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, an inmate shall be
2 given an additional 30 day prescription order and two additional
3 refills.¹

4
5 ¹**[4.** (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden, or
6 keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to each
7 county inmate, free of charge, a non-driver identification card as
8 soon as practicable, but at least 30 days prior to the inmate's release
9 from that facility. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
10 shall issue the identification card and accept a former inmate's
11 county corrections identification card as two points for the purposes
12 of applying for the identification card. Whenever the Governor
13 orders Motor Vehicle Commission agencies to close during a public
14 health emergency pursuant to the "Emergency Health Powers Act,"
15 P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.), a state of emergency pursuant
16 to P.L.1942, c.251 (C.App.A.9-33 et seq.), or both, the
17 superintendent of the facility shall directly issue these identification
18 cards to inmates.

19 b. If an inmate is at any time scheduled for release from a
20 county correctional facility in less than 30 days, the superintendent
21 shall issue the non-driver identification card required pursuant to
22 subsection a. of this section at least 48 hours prior to the inmate's
23 release.]¹

24
25 ¹**[5]** ¹**4.**¹ (New section) ¹**a.**¹ The Commissioner of Corrections
26 shall ¹**[complete and forward]** ensure that an inmate is assisted
27 with completing and forwarding¹ for processing to the
28 ¹**[appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services]**
29 Department of Human Services¹ as soon as practicable but not less
30 than ¹**[45]** 30¹ days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration
31 ¹**[applications]** , an online application¹ for enrollment in
32 ¹**[applicable social service programs, including but not limited to:**
33 **a.]** the Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413
34 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

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

42 (1)¹ the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established
43 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-
44 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.)¹**[.]**¹;

45 ¹**[b.]** and

(2)¹ the Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include ¹, for inmates who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release,¹ 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)¹]; and¹]

c. ¹the Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.)] 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 section¹.

¹[6. (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall complete and forward 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 applications for enrollment in applicable social service programs, including but not limited to:

(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.);

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

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

b. If an inmate is at any time scheduled for release from a county correctional facility in less than 30 days, the superintendent shall comply with the provisions of subsection a. of this section at least 48 hours prior to the inmate's release.]¹

¹[7.] 5.¹ (New section) 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.

¹[8. (New section) 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 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.]¹

¹[9.] 6.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.