

ASSEMBLY, No. 403

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman HECK

1 A SUPPLEMENT to "An Act making appropriations for the support of
2 the State Government and the several public purposes for the fiscal
3 year ending June 30, 1994 and regulating the disbursement
4 thereof," approved June 30, 1993 (P.L.1993, c.155).

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

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9 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.1993, c.155,
10 there is appropriated out of the General Fund the following sum for
11 the purpose specified:

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13 DIRECT STATE SERVICES
14 26 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
15 10 PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
16 7025 SYSTEM-WIDE PROGRAM SUPPORT

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18 13-7025 Institutional Program
19 Support\$4,500,000
20 Special Purpose:
21 Computerized inmate and parolee collections system.. \$4,500,000

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23 2. Prior to the distribution of the funding hereinabove
24 appropriated, the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections
25 shall conduct a study of the department's current collection system,
26 identify alternative computerized collection systems and their costs,
27 and recommend the most cost effective collections system available
28 that will permit the department to collect money due from its inmates
29 and parolees. Included in this report shall be a plan indicating how the
30 Department of Corrections intends to collect financial obligations
31 owed by its inmates and parolees that are already in arrears. The
32 department shall submit these recommendations to the Joint Budget
33 Oversight Committee for their approval of the selected system. In
34 addition, the Department of Corrections shall provide to the Joint
35 Budget Oversight Committee an estimate of the increased revenues

1 which shall be collected as a result of the installation of the new
2 system.

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4 3. Within six months of receiving the funds, the Commissioner of
5 the Department of Corrections shall appear before the Assembly and
6 Senate Appropriations Committees to provide the Legislature with an
7 update of the status of the system.

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9 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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12 STATEMENT

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14 This bill appropriates \$4.5 million to the Department of Corrections
15 for the purpose of developing a computerized collections program to
16 permit the department to collect court imposed financial obligations
17 owed by prison inmates and parolees. N.J.S.A. 30:4-92 requires the
18 Department of Corrections to deduct up to one third of an inmates
19 wages to pay any assessment, restitution, or fine ordered as a part of
20 the inmate's sentence. The department is also required to deduct up
21 to one third of an inmate's work release wages for this purpose
22 (N.J.S.A. 30:4-91.4). However, at the present time the Department
23 of Corrections manually deducts the wages only from inmates on work
24 release. Inmates working in the institutions have their pay deducted
25 on a voluntary basis and parolees make voluntary payments to their
26 parole officers.

27 This appropriation will permit the Department of Corrections to
28 develop and install a computerized payroll deduction program. This
29 program will provide for computerized electronic funds transfer
30 capability to accommodate the shift of funds to the receiving agency,
31 and a centralized accounting and bookkeeping system to collect, keep
32 track of and to send out the funds to the recipient agency or
33 individual.

34 The bill requires that prior to the distribution of the funds
35 appropriated, the department conduct a study of its current collection
36 system, identify alternative computerized collection systems and their
37 costs, and submit recommendations to the Joint Budget Oversight
38 Committee with regard to the most cost effective collections system
39 available. Included in this report shall be a plan indicating how the
40 department intends to collect sums owed by inmates and parolees that
41 are already in arrears. In addition, the Department of Corrections is
42 required to provide to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee an
43 estimate of the increased revenues which will be collected as a result
44 of the installation of the new system.

45 Within six months of receiving the funds, the Commissioner of the
46 Department of Corrections is required to appear before the Assembly

1 and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide the Legislature with
2 an update of the status of the system.

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7 Appropriates \$4.5 million to the Department of Corrections for a
8 computerized inmate and parolee collections system.

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