

P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 266, *approved December 22, 1997*

Senate No. 1639

1 AN ACT concerning the recidivism of sex offenders and supplementing  
2 N.J.S.2C:47-1 et seq.

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

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7 1. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall establish a program to  
8 record and analyze the recidivism of all inmates who are released from  
9 the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center, whether on parole or  
10 upon the completion of their maximum sentences. The purpose of this  
11 program shall be to assist in measuring the effectiveness of the center  
12 in providing specialized treatment to repetitive and compulsive sex  
13 offenders pursuant to N.J.S.2C:47-3.

14 b. The program shall record the arrests for all offenses committed  
15 by releasees for a period of five years following their release and any  
16 convictions resulting from these arrests. These data shall be analyzed  
17 to determine whether the rates and nature of rearrests and  
18 convictions differ according to the criminal histories and personal  
19 characteristics of releasees, the treatment they received at the Adult  
20 Diagnostic and Treatment Center, length of sentence, conditions of  
21 parole, and such other factors as may be relevant to the purposes of  
22 this act.

23 c. The program shall also perform a comparative analysis of the  
24 recidivism rates and patterns of releasees from the Adult Diagnostic  
25 and Treatment Center with those of persons released from this State's  
26 general prison population and with sex offenders released in other  
27 jurisdictions with specialized programs for the treatment of sex  
28 offenders.

29 d. The department shall prepare and disseminate to the Governor  
30 and the Legislature reports documenting the program's findings, along  
31 with any recommendations it may have for legislation to improve the  
32 effectiveness of treatment offered by the Adult Diagnostic and  
33 Treatment Center.

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35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

## STATEMENT

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The Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center (ADTC) at Avenel is charged with providing specialized treatment to change the behavior of persons sentenced as repetitive and compulsive sex offenders. However, as noted in the report of the Joint Task Force to Study the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center, the center does not systematically track the recidivism of former inmates. The lack of reliable recidivism data thwarts efforts to gauge the success of this specialized correctional facility or the efficacy of various treatment modalities.

This bill would implement a recommendation by the task force in its June, 1995 report by requiring the Commissioner of Corrections to establish a program to record and analyze the recidivism of all inmates who are released from the center. The program would record the arrests and any subsequent convictions of inmates for five years following their release. It would then analyze the recidivism information to determine its relationship to inmate characteristics, the crimes for which they were incarcerated, types of treatment provided and conditions of parole. The commissioner is also directed to compare the recidivism of ADTC inmates with that of inmates released from the State's general prison population and inmates released from specialized sex offender programs in other states. The commissioner would be required to report the results of the recidivism study to the Governor and the Legislature.

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Requires DOC to track recidivism of ADTC inmates.