

[Second Reprint]

## **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:**

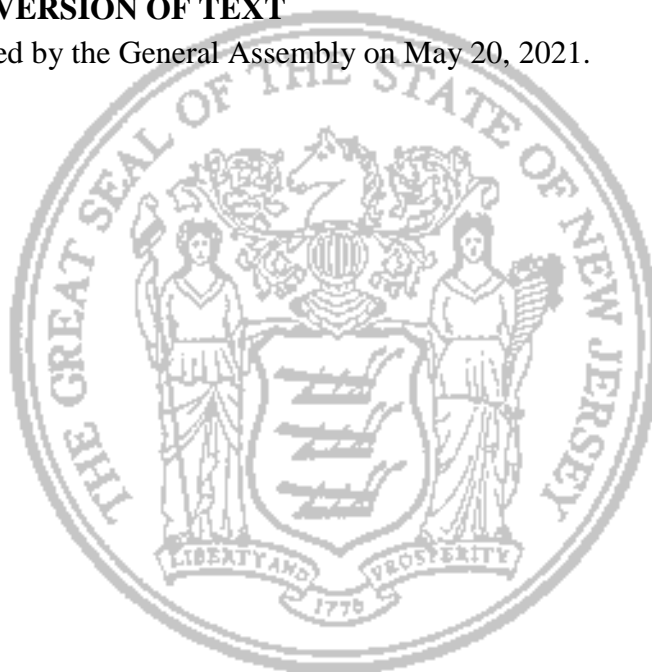
**Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey and Assemblyman Johnson**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Expands scope of inmate reentry assistance and benefits.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the General Assembly on May 20, 2021.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2021)**

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 read  
8 as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 g. <sup>1</sup>**[A copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was born**  
32 **in New Jersey;]** (Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c. ) (pending  
33 before the Legislature as this bill)<sup>1</sup>

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]** <sup>1</sup>**[three-month]** 30-day<sup>1</sup> supply of prescription  
37 medication<sup>1</sup>; <sup>2</sup>[except if the prescribed medication is suboxone, a 90-  
38 day prescription<sup>1</sup> **] a three-month supply of long-acting injectables,**<sup>2</sup>  
39 and, to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, <sup>1</sup>[an additional  
40 30 day prescription order and]<sup>1</sup> two additional refills;

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

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AJU committee amendments adopted May 18, 2021.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted May 20, 2021.

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

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

13       m. A benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining benefits  
14 under the:

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

17       (2) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established  
18 pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-  
19 525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.); and

20       (3) Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to  
21 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for inmates  
22 who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release,  
23 emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New Jersey  
24 recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51).  
25 (cf:P.L.2020, c.45, s.1)  
26

27       <sup>1</sup>2. (New section) The Commissioner of Corrections shall  
28 provide to each inmate at least 60 days prior to release from a State  
29 correctional facility a copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the  
30 inmate was born in New Jersey.<sup>1</sup>  
31

32       <sup>1</sup>[2.]<sup>1</sup> Section 2 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.15) is  
33 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

14  
15       <sup>1</sup>**【3】 4<sup>1</sup>**. Section 4 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.16) is amended  
16 to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

45       d. If an inmate is unable to identify a residence at the time of  
46 application for benefits pursuant to this section, the Commissioner  
47 of Corrections shall ensure that the address of the <sup>1</sup>**【appropriate】**  
48 applicable Department of Community Affairs<sup>1</sup> regional non-profit

1 inmate reentry organization is used for the purposes of establishing  
2 proof of residence to meet any applicable eligibility requirements.

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

5 (1) accept the address of the <sup>1</sup>["appropriate"] applicable  
6 Department of Community Affairs<sup>1</sup> regional non-profit inmate  
7 reentry organization for an inmate who is unable to identify a  
8 residence at the time of application for benefits; and

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

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

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

20  
21 <sup>1</sup>**[4]** 5<sup>1</sup>. Section 5 of P.L.2020, c.45 (C.30:1B-6.17) is  
22 amended to read as follows:

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

28 b. The commissioner shall provide to the applicable  
29 <sup>1</sup>Department of Community Affairs<sup>1</sup> regional non-profit inmate  
30 reentry organization, in advance of an inmate's release, the  
31 information required in subsection a. of this section <sup>1</sup>unless the  
32 inmate requests that the information not be forwarded<sup>1</sup>.

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

34  
35 <sup>1</sup>**[5]** 6<sup>1</sup>. (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden,  
36 or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to each  
37 inmate at least 30 days prior to release from a facility:

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

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

43 (3) general written information on the availability of programs,  
44 including faith-based and secular programs, that would assist in  
45 removing barriers to the inmate's employment or participation in  
46 vocational or educational rehabilitative programs, including but not  
47 limited to, information concerning the "Rehabilitated Convicted  
48 Offenders Act," P.L.1968, c.282 (C.2A:168A-1 et seq.) and the

- 1 certificate of rehabilitation under P.L.2007, c.327 (C.2A:168A-7 et  
2 seq.);
- 3 (4) a detailed written record of the inmate's participation in  
4 educational, training, employment, and medical or other treatment  
5 programs while the inmate was incarcerated;
- 6 (5) a written accounting of the fines, assessments, surcharges,  
7 restitution, penalties, child support arrearages, and any other  
8 obligations due and payable by the inmate upon release;
- 9 (6) a copy of the inmate's birth certificate if the inmate was born in  
10 New Jersey;
- 11 (7) assistance in obtaining a Social Security card;
- 12 (8) a one-day New Jersey bus or rail pass;
- 13 (9) a ~~two-week~~ <sup>1</sup>~~three-month~~ 30-day<sup>1</sup> supply of prescription  
14 medication<sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>~~except if the prescribed medication is suboxone, a 90-~~  
15 ~~day prescription<sup>1</sup>~~ a three-month supply of long-acting injectables,<sup>2</sup>  
16 and to the extent consistent with clinical guidelines, <sup>1</sup>an additional 30  
17 day prescription order and]<sup>1</sup> two additional refills;
- 18 (10) general written information concerning child support,  
19 including child support payments owed by the inmate, information on  
20 how to seek child support payments and information on where to seek  
21 services regarding child support, child custody, and establishing  
22 parentage;
- 23 (11) a medical discharge summary, which shall include  
24 instructions on how to obtain from the superintendent a copy of the  
25 inmate's full medical record; upon request from the inmate, the  
26 superintendent shall provide a copy of the inmate's full medical record  
27 in a safe and secure manner, at no charge to the inmate; the  
28 superintendent shall comply with rules and regulations, adopted  
29 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
30 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), that ensure that these records are expeditiously  
31 and securely provided in a manner consistent with the provision of  
32 medical records by other providers; and
- 33 (12) a benefits card approved for the purpose of obtaining benefits  
34 under the:
- 35 (a) Medicaid program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413  
36 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.);
- 37 (b) 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 (c) Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to  
41 P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), which shall include, for inmates  
42 who are unable to identify a residence at the time of release,  
43 emergency assistance benefits issued to Work First New Jersey  
44 recipients pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51).
- 45 b. If an inmate is at any time scheduled for release from a county  
46 correctional facility in less than 30 days, the <sup>1</sup>~~superintendent~~ chief  
47 executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county correctional

1 facility<sup>1</sup> shall comply with the provisions of subsection a. of this  
2 section at least 48 hours prior to the inmate's release.

3  
4 <sup>1</sup>7. (New section) a. The chief executive officer, warden, or  
5 keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide to the  
6 appropriate county welfare agency or board of social services, in  
7 advance of an inmate's release, the inmate's name, release date, and  
8 contact information, which shall include, but not be limited to, a  
9 telephone number or an email address.

10 b. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each  
11 county correctional facility shall provide to the applicable  
12 Department of Community Affairs regional non-profit inmate  
13 reentry organization, in advance of an inmate's release, the  
14 information required in subsection a. of this section unless the  
15 inmate requests that the information not be forwarded.<sup>1</sup>

16  
17 <sup>1</sup>[6.] 8.<sup>1</sup> (New section) a. The chief executive officer,  
18 warden, or keeper of each county correctional facility shall provide  
19 a non-driver identification card issued by the New Jersey Motor  
20 Vehicle Commission to each county inmate, free of charge, as soon  
21 as practicable, but not less than 10 days prior to the inmate's release  
22 from the county correctional facility. The New Jersey Motor  
23 Vehicle Commission shall issue the identification card and accept a  
24 former inmate's county correctional facility identification card as  
25 two points for the purposes of applying for the identification card.

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

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

43  
44 <sup>1</sup>[7.] 9.<sup>1</sup> (New section) a. As soon as practicable but not less  
45 than 30 days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration, the  
46 chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of each county  
47 correctional facility shall ensure that an inmate is assisted with  
48 completing, obtaining any required signatures or authorizations for,

1 and forwarding for processing to the Department of Human  
2 Services an online application for enrollment in the Medicaid  
3 program, established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et  
4 seq.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 f. An inmate who appears to be eligible for benefits under the  
40 Work First New Jersey program based on the inmate's certification  
41 of income, resources, and family composition, and based on other  
42 information immediately available at the time of application, shall  
43 be deemed presumptively eligible for Work First New Jersey  
44 assistance and immediate need assistance and shall receive this  
45 assistance for a period of not less than 45 days following the  
46 inmate's release from incarceration.



1       <sup>1</sup>10. (New section) a. The governing body of each county in  
2 this State may, by duly adopted ordinance or resolution, appoint a  
3 county reentry coordinator who shall be responsible for evaluating  
4 the needs of, and navigating the appropriate treatment and services  
5 for, each inmate in a county correctional facility in this State.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

47       (4) providing information concerning relevant social services  
48 and reentry and rehabilitative programs including, but not limited

1 to, the WorkFirst NJ Substance Abuse Initiative. The county  
2 reentry coordinator shall assist the inmate with completing  
3 applications for and otherwise accessing appropriate services and  
4 programming upon the inmate's release from the facility;

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

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

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

19 e. The county reentry coordinator also shall:

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

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

29 (3) ensure each inmate at the time of discharge is provided with  
30 the prescription medication required pursuant to paragraph (9) of  
31 subsection a. of section 6 of P.L. c. (pending before the  
32 Legislature as this bill).<sup>1</sup>

33  
34 <sup>1</sup>11. (New section) a. The county reentry coordinator shall  
35 record data regarding: the number of inmates who are offered  
36 services pursuant to section 10 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
37 before the Legislature as this bill); the number of inmates who  
38 accept the services offered; the types of services provided to each  
39 inmate who accepts the services offered; the race, gender, ethnicity,  
40 and age of each inmate; a record of any crimes committed by  
41 inmates who are released from the facility and the types of crimes  
42 committed for a period of three years following the inmate's  
43 release; and the number of inmates who were not released, and the  
44 reasons why they were not released, from a county correctional  
45 facility during regular business hours.

46 b. The data shall be analyzed to determine whether the rates  
47 and nature of rearrests and convictions differ according to whether  
48 an inmate received services in accordance with section 10 of

1 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).  
2 The county reentry coordinator shall annually prepare and transmit  
3 the findings to the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of  
4 each county correctional facility, as appropriate; the superintendent,  
5 director, or other chief administrative officer of the County Board  
6 of Social Services or welfare agency, as appropriate; the governing  
7 body of the county in which the correctional facility is located; and  
8 the Commissioner of Corrections.<sup>1</sup>

9  
10 <sup>1</sup>12. (New section) The county reentry coordinator shall, in  
11 collaboration with the chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of  
12 a county correctional facility, develop peer counseling programs in  
13 the county correctional facility that support the treatment of county  
14 inmates with substance use disorders. The warden, director, or  
15 administrator may additionally develop initiatives to provide  
16 inmates in the custody of the county correctional facility with  
17 access to professional substance use disorder counseling.<sup>1</sup>

18  
19 <sup>1</sup>13. (New section) a. The county reentry coordinator shall  
20 meet regularly with community stakeholders who may offer  
21 guidance for evaluating the needs of and providing services to  
22 inmates in county correctional facilities including, but not limited  
23 to:

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

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

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

1     (3) make appropriate recommendations to the county  
2 correctional facility and County Board of Social Services or welfare  
3 agency with respect to preparing county inmates for successful  
4 reentry into the community and reducing recidivism.<sup>1</sup>

5  
6     <sup>1</sup>14. There shall be annually appropriated through the annual  
7 appropriations act such amounts as shall be deemed necessary to  
8 implement the provisions of sections 10 through 13 of P.L. \_\_\_\_\_  
9 c. (C. \_\_\_\_\_ through C. \_\_\_\_\_) (pending before the Legislature as this  
10 bill) concerning the county reentry coordinator.<sup>1</sup>

11  
12     <sup>1</sup>**[8.] 15.**<sup>1</sup> (New section) An inmate released from a State or  
13 county correctional facility shall be authorized to use the address of  
14 a nonprofit inmate reentry organization approved by the Department  
15 of Community Affairs as a mailing address in an application for  
16 benefits under the:

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

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

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

24  
25     <sup>1</sup>**[9.] 16.**<sup>1</sup> Section 5 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-48) is amended  
26 to read as follows:

27     5. a. Only those persons who are United States citizens or  
28 eligible aliens shall be eligible for benefits under the Work First  
29 New Jersey program. Single adults or couples without dependent  
30 children who are legal aliens who meet federal requirements and  
31 have applied for citizenship, shall not receive benefits for more than  
32 six months unless (1) they attain citizenship, or (2) they have passed  
33 the English language and civics components for citizenship, and are  
34 awaiting final determination of citizenship by the federal  
35 Immigration and Naturalization Service.

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

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

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

44     (3) illegal aliens;

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

46     (5) a person absent from the home who is incarcerated in a  
47 federal, State, county or local corrective facility or under the

1 custody of correctional authorities, except as provided by regulation  
2 of the commissioner;

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

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

27 Eligibility for benefits for a person entering a licensed drug  
28 treatment program which does not operate in a State correctional  
29 facility or county jail shall commence upon the person's enrollment  
30 in the drug treatment program, and shall continue during the  
31 person's active participation in, and upon completion of, the drug  
32 treatment program, except that during the person's active  
33 participation in a drug treatment program and the first 60 days after  
34 completion of a drug treatment program, the commissioner shall  
35 provide for testing of the person to determine if the person is free of  
36 any controlled substance. If the person is determined to not be free  
37 of any controlled substance during the 60-day period, the person's  
38 eligibility for benefits pursuant to this paragraph shall be  
39 terminated; except that this provision shall not apply to the use of  
40 prescription drugs by a person who is actively participating in a  
41 drug treatment program, as prescribed by the drug treatment  
42 program. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to carry out the  
43 provisions of this paragraph, which shall include the criteria for  
44 determining active participation in and completion of a drug  
45 treatment program.

46 Eligibility for benefits for a person who completes a licensed  
47 residential drug treatment program which operates in a State  
48 correctional facility or county jail, in accordance with section 1 of

1 P.L.2014, c.1 (C.26:2B-40), shall commence upon release from  
2 incarceration.

3 Cash benefits, less a personal needs allowance, for a person  
4 receiving general public assistance benefits under the Work First  
5 New Jersey program who is enrolled in and actively participating in  
6 a licensed drug treatment program shall be issued directly to the  
7 drug treatment provider to offset the cost of treatment. Upon  
8 completion of the drug treatment program, the cash benefits shall be  
9 then issued to the person. In the case of a delay in issuing cash  
10 benefits to a person receiving Work First New Jersey general public  
11 assistance benefits who has completed the drug treatment program,  
12 the drug treatment provider shall transmit to the person those funds  
13 received on behalf of that person after completion of the drug  
14 treatment program;] (Deleted by amendment, (P.L. , c. )  
15 (pending before the Legislature as this bill

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

42  
43 <sup>1</sup>17. (New section) The Governor shall appoint an independent  
44 investigator to evaluate the Commissioner of Correction's  
45 compliance with the provisions of P.L.2019, c.282; P.L.2019,  
46 c.288; P.L.2019, c.364; P.L.2020, c.45; and P.L. c. (pending  
47 before the Legislature as this bill). Within six months of the  
48 effective date of this act, the independent investigator shall report

1 findings and conclusions to the Governor and the Legislature,  
2 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).<sup>1</sup>

3

4 <sup>1</sup>**[10.]** 18.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.