

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 659

Introduced by Fulton, 29.

Read first time January 21, 2009

Committee: Judiciary

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to community corrections; to state intent; to
2 provide for data collection on individuals released from
3 incarceration as prescribed; to provide for funding; and
4 to declare an emergency.
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds that:

2 (1) Upon release from incarceration, individuals often
3 lack access to services, including health care, mental health
4 care, substance abuse treatment, stable housing, job skills and
5 employment, and training and education. Without a basic support
6 system, it is difficult to become a responsible member of society.
7 As a result, many of these individuals become trapped in a cycle of
8 destitution, deterioration, and recidivism;

9 (2) Legislative action is required to assist private
10 social services agencies in providing such services to individuals
11 being released from incarceration;

12 (3) Historically, these services have been provided by
13 such private efforts with little financial assistance from the
14 State of Nebraska;

15 (4) Currently such services are being provided by both
16 private individuals focusing on one specific area and larger
17 agencies that provide a variety of services;

18 (5) Information on individuals released from
19 incarceration needs to be collected in order to ensure
20 future success for such individuals as they reintegrate into
21 communities in order to reduce recidivism and save money for the
22 citizens of Nebraska;

23 (6) Private agencies should be the entities to engage in
24 such data collection in order not to further burden employees of
25 the Department of Correctional Services and reduce their ability to

1 perform their correctional duties; and

2 (7) Legislative action is required to provide funding for
3 such data collection by private agencies.

4 Sec. 2. It is the purpose of sections 1 to 4 of this act
5 to provide funding from the Community Corrections Council to create
6 a pilot project to provide data from twelve previously incarcerated
7 individuals who have been released on parole from the Department of
8 Correctional Services.

9 Sec. 3. The data described in section 2 of this act
10 shall be collected by private agencies which contract with the
11 Community Corrections Council to contact the individuals described
12 in section 2 of this act, collect the data, and submit the data to
13 the council and receive compensation from the council for compiling
14 such data. The collection of data shall be done anonymously.
15 The Department of Correctional Services shall provide whatever
16 assistance is necessary to the entities participating in the data
17 collection required by this section. Such data shall be submitted
18 to the council not later than December 31, 2009.

19 Sec. 4. The Community Corrections Council may adopt and
20 promulgate rules and regulations to carry out section 3 of this
21 act.

22 Sec. 5. The Legislature shall appropriate \$25,200 to the
23 Community Corrections Council for the data collection required by
24 section 3 of this act.

25 Sec. 6. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect

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1 when passed and approved according to law.