

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1118

Introduced by Krist, 10.

Read first time January 18, 2018

Committee: Judiciary

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to criminal justice; to create the Coordinated
- 2 Reentry Council; to provide powers and duties for the council; and
- 3 to provide a termination date.
- 4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares that there shall be a
2 coordinated effort (1) to establish a comprehensive and successful system
3 of correctional reentry programs throughout this state and (2) to include
4 an array of interests in the establishment and growth of this system. To
5 further such policy, the Coordinated Reentry Council is created. For
6 administrative and budgetary purposes, the council shall be within the
7 Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

8 Sec. 2. (1) The Coordinated Reentry Council shall include the
9 following voting members:

10 (a) The executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Law
11 Enforcement and Criminal Justice;

12 (b) The Director of Correctional Services;

13 (c) The chairperson of the Board of Parole;

14 (d) The Parole Administrator;

15 (e) The Director of Behavioral Health of the Division of Behavioral
16 Health of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

17 (f) Eight members appointed by the Governor with the approval of a
18 majority of the Legislature, consisting of: An executive director of a
19 state community college association; a business owner who employs
20 formerly incarcerated individuals on a regular basis; two individuals who
21 were formerly incarcerated in a state correctional facility; one mental
22 health and substance abuse professional; one social worker; a researcher
23 in the field of criminal justice in a university or college in Nebraska;
24 and one full-time officer or employee of a law enforcement agency.

25 (2) The council shall include the following nonvoting members:

26 (a) The probation administrator;

27 (b) Two members of the Legislature, appointed by the Executive Board
28 of the Legislative Council; and

29 (c) Two judges appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

30 (3)(a) The terms of office for members initially appointed under
31 subdivision (1)(f) of this section shall be three years. Upon completion

1 of the initial terms of such members, the Governor shall appoint:

2 (i) A representative from law enforcement and a mental health and
3 substance abuse professional for terms of one year;

4 (ii) An executive director of a state community college association
5 and two individuals who were formerly incarcerated in a state
6 correctional facility for terms of two years; and

7 (iii) A social worker, a business owner who employs formerly
8 incarcerated individuals on a regular basis, and a researcher in the
9 field of criminal justice in a university or college in Nebraska for
10 terms of three years.

11 (b) Succeeding appointees shall be appointed for terms of three
12 years. An appointee to a vacancy occurring from an unexpired term shall
13 serve out the term of his or her predecessor. Members whose terms have
14 expired shall continue to serve until their successors have been
15 appointed and qualified.

16 (4) The council shall by majority vote elect a chairperson from
17 among the members of the council.

18 (5) The members of the council shall be reimbursed for their actual
19 and necessary expenses incurred while engaged in the performance of their
20 official duties as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177.

21 Sec. 3. The Coordinated Reentry Council shall:

22 (1) Advise the Department of Correctional Services on the
23 utilization of funds administered by the Vocational and Life Skills
24 Programming Fund;

25 (2) Develop and implement a plan to establish the statewide
26 operation and use of a continuum of reentry programs;

27 (3) Review efforts by individuals and organizations that provide
28 reentry services in Nebraska;

29 (4) Review best practices regarding reentry policies and programs in
30 other states;

31 (5) Make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor

1 regarding reentry policies and programs;

2 (6) Meet at least three times each year;

3 (7) If necessary to perform the duties of the council, hire,
4 contract for, or otherwise obtain the services of consultants,
5 researchers, aides, and other necessary support staff; and

6 (8) Perform such other duties as may be necessary to carry out the
7 purposes of section 1 of this act.

8 Sec. 4. The Coordinated Reentry Council shall terminate on December
9 31, 2028.