

SENATE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 939

By COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND EARLY CHILDHOOD

April 21

1 Delete lines 4 through 24 of the printed bill and insert:

2 **“SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Corrections shall enter into contracts with nonprofit**
3 **entities to establish a program to assist the children of incarcerated parents. The primary**
4 **goal of the program is to serve the best interests of the children of incarcerated parents.**
5 **The secondary goals of the program shall be:**

6 **“(a) To assist in developing and maintaining family attachment;**

7 **“(b) To reduce the likelihood of children of incarcerated parents entering the justice**
8 **system;**

9 **“(c) To reduce recidivism;**

10 **“(d) To increase successful reentry of incarcerated parents and reunification with fami-**
11 **lies; and**

12 **“(e) To improve educational outcomes for the children of incarcerated parents.**

13 **“(2) The program described in subsection (1) of this section must provide culturally ap-**
14 **propriate and gender-appropriate training and support to incarcerated parents that takes**
15 **into account any past trauma of program participants and that includes:**

16 **“(a) Participation of qualified mental health professionals with training and experience**
17 **with persons who have experienced trauma.**

18 **“(b) The offering of two monthly therapeutic, face-to-face visitation sessions between**
19 **parent and child for a minimum of three hours per session.**

20 **“(c) Parenting skills training, including information on child development and attach-**
21 **ment.**

22 **“(d) Facilitation of parent-teacher conferences.**

23 **“(e) Intensive communication between parents and the guardian or caregiver of a child.**

24 **“(f) Funding for transportation of program participants to and from the prison.**

25 **“(g) Funding for lodging for program participants when determined by the Department**
26 **of Corrections or nonprofit entities to be appropriate.**

27 **“(h) Space provided for the program and for resource center activities.**

28 **“(i) Referrals to home visiting services and attorney services.**

29 **“(j) Assistance in navigating state agency processes and nonprofit resources.**

30 **“(k) Measurable outcomes connected to the goals of the program described in subsection**
31 **(1) of this section.**

32 **“(3)(a) The Department of Corrections, with the participation of the Department of Hu-**
33 **man Services and the nonprofit entities, shall establish and perform an evaluation process**
34 **to monitor the effectiveness of the program described in subsection (1) of this section. The**
35 **evaluation process must include:**

1 “(A) A comparison of outcomes for incarcerated parents and children who participated
2 in the programs and incarcerated parents and children who did not participate.

3 “(B) A determination of whether the program met the goals described in subsection (1)
4 of this section.

5 “(C) The consideration of program participant surveys.

6 “(b) The Department of Corrections shall biannually report the results of the evaluation
7 process described in paragraph (a) of this subsection to the subcommittee of the Joint
8 Committee on Ways and Means with authority over the budget of the Department of Cor-
9 rections or to an appropriate interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to the
10 department’s budget.

11 “(4) The Department of Corrections may solicit, apply for and accept gifts or grants,
12 donations or other moneys from public or private entities, and may use other available state
13 and federal moneys at the discretion of the Director of the Department of Corrections, in
14 order to fund the program described in subsection (1) of this section.

15 “(5) For incarcerated parents who are eligible for services provided by the Department
16 of Human Services, the Department of Human Services shall cooperate with the Department
17 of Corrections and the contracted nonprofit entities described in subsection (1) of this sec-
18 tion to assist those incarcerated parents in accessing the appropriate services provided by
19 the Department of Human Services.

20 “(6) The Department of Corrections may adopt rules to implement this section.

21 “SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appro-
22 priated to the Department of Corrections, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, out of the
23 General Fund, the amount of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of
24 section 1 of this 2015 Act.”.

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