

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
SENATE BILL 939**

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

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

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

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

10 **“(c) To reduce recidivism;**

11 **“(d) To increase successful reentry of inmates and reunification**
12 **with families; and**

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

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

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

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

1 session.

2 “(c) Parenting skills training, including information on child de-
3 velopment and attachment.

4 “(d) Facilitation of parent-teacher conferences.

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

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

9 “(g) Funding for lodging for program participants when determined
10 by the department or nonprofit entities to be appropriate.

11 “(h) Space provided for the program and for resource center activ-
12 ities.

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

14 “(j) Assistance in navigating state agency processes and nonprofit
15 resources.

16 “(k) Measurable outcomes connected to the goals of the program
17 described in subsection (1) of this section.

18 “(3)(a) The department, with the participation of the Department
19 of Human Services and the nonprofit entities, shall establish and per-
20 form an evaluation process to monitor the effectiveness of the pro-
21 gram described in subsection (1) of this section. The evaluation process
22 must include:

23 “(A) A comparison of outcomes for inmates and children who par-
24 ticipated in the programs and inmates and children who did not par-
25 ticipate.

26 “(B) A determination of whether the program met the goals de-
27 scribed in subsection (1) of this section.

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

29 “(b) The department shall biannually report the results of the
30 evaluation process described in paragraph (a) of this subsection to the

1 **subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means with au-**
2 **thority over the budget of the Department of Corrections or to an**
3 **appropriate interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to**
4 **the department’s budget.**

5 **“(4) The Department of Corrections may solicit, apply for and ac-**
6 **cept gifts or grants, donations or other moneys from public or private**
7 **entities, and may use other available state and federal moneys at the**
8 **discretion of the Director of the Department of Corrections, in order**
9 **to fund the program described in subsection (1) of this section.**

10 **“(5) The Department of Human Services shall cooperate with the**
11 **Department of Corrections and the contracted nonprofit entities de-**
12 **scribed in subsection (1) of this section to assist eligible incarcerated**
13 **parents in accessing appropriate services provided by the Department**
14 **of Human Services.**

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

17 **“SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropri-**
18 **ation, there is appropriated to the Department of Corrections, for the**
19 **biennium beginning July 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount**
20 **of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section**
21 **1 of this 2015 Act.”.**

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