

**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 incarcerated parents and re-**  
12 **unification 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 of Corrections or nonprofit entities to be appro-  
11 priate.

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

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

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

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

19 “(3)(a) The Department of Corrections, with the participation of the  
20 Department of Human Services and the nonprofit entities, shall es-  
21 tablish and perform an evaluation process to monitor the effectiveness  
22 of the program described in subsection (1) of this section. The evalu-  
23 ation process must include:

24 “(A) A comparison of outcomes for incarcerated parents and chil-  
25 dren who participated in the programs and incarcerated parents and  
26 children who did not participate.

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

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

30 “(b) The Department of Corrections shall biannually report the re-

1 **sults of the evaluation process described in paragraph (a) of this sub-**  
2 **section to the subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and**  
3 **Means with authority over the budget of the Department of Cor-**  
4 **rections or to an appropriate interim committee of the Legislative**  
5 **Assembly related to the department’s budget.**

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

11 **“(5) For incarcerated parents who are eligible for services provided**  
12 **by the Department of Human Services, the Department of Human**  
13 **Services shall cooperate with the Department of Corrections and the**  
14 **contracted nonprofit entities described in subsection (1) of this section**  
15 **to assist those incarcerated parents in accessing the appropriate ser-**  
16 **vices provided by the Department of Human Services.**

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

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

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