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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 1146

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Civil Justice

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to criminal justice; authorizing reentry projects; appropriating money;
1.3 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 641.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **[641.156] COUNTY JAIL REENTRY PROJECTS; GRANTS.**

1.6 Subdivision 1. Purpose. The purpose of the reentry project is to promote public
1.7 safety, prevent recidivism, and promote a successful reintegration into the community
1.8 by providing services to individuals confined in jails and county regional jails who are
1.9 identified as having mental illness, traumatic brain injury, chemical dependency, or being
1.10 homeless.

1.11 Subd. 2. Grants. (a) The commissioner of corrections, in consultation with the
1.12 commissioner of human services, shall award grants to county boards for two-year reentry
1.13 pilot projects. Projects will target prisoners in jails and county regional jails who are
1.14 identified as having:

- 1.15 (1) a mental illness, as defined in section 245.462, subdivision 20;
1.16 (2) a traumatic brain injury, as defined in section 256B.093, subdivision 4;
1.17 (3) chemical dependency, as defined in section 253B.02, subdivision 2; or
1.18 (4) a history of homelessness, as defined in section 116L.361, subdivision 5.

1.19 (b) The projects shall provide a range of services including, but not limited to,
1.20 screening and assessment, client-specific programming, discharge planning and reentry
1.21 assistance, and follow-up for at least six months after the prisoner has reentered the
1.22 community.

1.23 Subd. 3. Applications. A grant applicant shall prepare and submit to the
1.24 commissioner of corrections a written proposal detailing the plan and strategies on how

2.1 the applicant will implement the program components in subdivision 4. The application
2.2 shall include a proposed evaluation component of outcome measures including, but not
2.3 limited to, numbers of prisoners served, recidivism, restoration of public benefits, and
2.4 status regarding housing, employment, and treatment needs after six months.

2.5 Subd. 4. **Program components.** Each participating county shall:

2.6 (1) develop a written collaborative plan between the county jail or county regional
2.7 jail and the county social services agency;

2.8 (2) assess each prisoner upon entry into the jail or county regional jail using a
2.9 screening tool approved by the commissioner of corrections in consultation with the
2.10 commissioner of human services to identify prisoners with the characteristics listed in
2.11 subdivision 2, paragraph (a);

2.12 (3) ensure prisoners who are identified with a positive screening and who will be
2.13 incarcerated for less than 30 days are offered follow-up care and referred to appropriate
2.14 professionals;

2.15 (4) ensure prisoners who are identified as having a characteristic listed in subdivision
2.16 2, paragraph (a), and who will be incarcerated 30 days or longer, are provided with
2.17 appropriate treatment and programming including, but not limited to, mental health
2.18 treatment, counseling, living and employment skills development, substance abuse
2.19 treatment, GED and literacy training, and referrals to aftercare treatment and skills training;

2.20 (5) offer to develop a discharge plan for prisoners identified as having a characteristic
2.21 listed in subdivision 2, paragraph (a), who will be incarcerated for 90 days or longer.

2.22 Discharge planning components must include:

2.23 (i) at least 60 days prior to the prisoner's release, the person responsible for discharge
2.24 planning authorized by this section shall begin assisting the prisoner to establish, or
2.25 reestablish, benefits such as medical assistance, veterans' benefits, MinnesotaCare, general
2.26 assistance medical care, Social Security insurance, housing assistance, and submitting in
2.27 a timely manner a prisoner's application for any benefits for which the prisoner may
2.28 be eligible upon release;

2.29 (ii) obtaining informed consent and releases of information from the prisoner that
2.30 are needed for transition services, identifying treatment needs, referring the prisoner
2.31 to appropriate services in the community, and arranging for basic needs such as food,
2.32 housing, transportation, employment, and GED services;

2.33 (iii) securing appointments for a prisoner to be treated by a psychiatrist within
2.34 30 days of release, if appropriate;

2.35 (iv) securing appointments for a prisoner with a community mental health provider
2.36 and a chemical dependency provider within 30 days of release, if appropriate;

3.1 (v) ensuring that the prisoner, when released from custody, has at least a 14-day
 3.2 supply of all necessary medications, and a prescription for at least a 30-day supply of all
 3.3 necessary medication that can be refilled once for an additional 30-day supply;

3.4 (vi) arranging for the prisoner to have a state photo identification card when released.
 3.5 The identification card must not disclose the prisoner's incarceration or criminal record
 3.6 and must list an address other than the address of the jail or county regional jail. The
 3.7 identification card expires on the date of birth of the holder four years after the date of
 3.8 issue; and

3.9 (vii) identifying prisoners who had a case manager prior to incarceration, and
 3.10 maintaining contact with that case manager to provide service coordination for the
 3.11 prisoner upon release. For prisoners without a case manager, making appropriate referrals
 3.12 for case management services or offering to provide follow-up services to assist the
 3.13 prisoner in obtaining stable housing, public benefits, and community services for up to
 3.14 six months after release;

3.15 (6) recording the number of prisoners identified under subdivision 2, paragraph (a),
 3.16 and the number of prisoners who received federal benefits upon entry into the jail or
 3.17 county regional jail; and

3.18 (7) maintaining accurate records to complete the program evaluation.

3.19 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATIONS.**

3.20 Subdivision 1. **Grant program.** \$..... is appropriated from the general fund to
 3.21 the commissioner of corrections for fiscal year 2008 and \$..... for fiscal year 2009 to
 3.22 administer the grant program established in section 1.

3.23 Subd. 2. **Discharge planning.** \$..... is appropriated from the general fund to
 3.24 the commissioner of human services for fiscal year 2008 to fund discharge planning for
 3.25 offenders with serious and persistent mental illness as defined in Minnesota Statutes,
 3.26 section 245.462, subdivision 20, paragraph (c), who are pending release from correctional
 3.27 facilities.

3.28 Subd. 3. **Mental health courts.** \$..... for fiscal year 2008 and \$..... for fiscal
 3.29 year 2009 are appropriated from the general fund to the Supreme Court to develop and
 3.30 implement standards for mental health courts.