

Unofficial Draft Copy

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LClj 5D3

**** Bill No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the Law and Justice Interim Committee

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a statewide multi-agency reentry task force for paroled offenders at high risk of recidivism; specifying department of corrections duties; providing an appropriation; and providing an effective date."

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) an effective reentry program targeting inmates at greatest risk of recidivism while on parole would not only save the state money but would enhance public safety;

(2) a successful reentry initiative requires planning and preparation, the support of multiple state agencies and community-based organizations, and targeted funding;

(3) providing in-prison access to informational resources is an important component of reentry planning prior to parole; and

(4) studies have shown that offenders who participate in restorative justice programs where they are held accountable to victims and community volunteer panels are less likely to re-offend, more likely to find community acceptance and employment, and better able to pay restitution.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Definition.** As used in [sections 1 through 4], "restorative justice program" has the meaning provided in 2-15-2013.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Reentry task force.** (1) There is a multi-agency re-entry task force to advise the department and help develop and implement reentry programs for offenders being paroled from prison and at highest risk of recidivism.

(2) The following agencies shall participate on the task force and other agencies may participate as appropriate:

- (a) the department;
- (b) the office of public instruction;
- (c) the university system;
- (d) the department of labor and industry established in 2-15-1701;
- (e) the department of public health and human services established in 2-15-2201;
- (f) the department of commerce established in 2-15-1801;
- (g) the department of justice established in 2-15-2001; and
- (g) the board.

(3) The department shall also invite as a member of the task force:

- (a) a representative from community-based organizations that assist in the reentry process;
- (b) a representative of community-based adult restorative justice programs;

(c) a representative of crime victims who is a crime victim;

(d) a representative of faith-based organizations that assist in the reentry process;

(e) a representative for community businesses interested in partnering with the department concerning reentry; and

(f) a state legislator.

(4) The task force shall meet regularly at the call of the department director, who shall be the presiding officer. Task force members are entitled to compensation and expenses as provided in 2-15-122.

NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Department duties.** The department, in consultation with the reentry task force, shall:

(1) examine and implement programs that will help bring community resources into prisons to support inmate reentry planning and preparation;

(2) develop partnerships and contract with community-based organizations to provide needed aftercare services for inmates released on parole;

(3) coordinate with county victim services offices and community restorative justice programs to ensure victim concerns and opportunities for restorative justice practices, including restitution, are considered during an offender's reentry; and

(4) collect data, conduct program evaluation, and develop findings and any recommendations about reentry and recidivism and include this information in an annual report.

NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the general fund to the department of corrections \$500,000 in each year of the biennium for the purposes of [sections 1 through 4].

NEW SECTION. **Section 6. {standard} Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 through 4] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 46, chapter 23, and the provisions of Title 46, chapter 23, apply to [sections 1 through 4].

NEW SECTION. **Section 7. {standard} Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2013.

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