

By Senator Bracy

11-00282-18

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to inmate reentry services; creating
3 s. 944.8025, F.S.; requiring the Department of
4 Corrections to allow representatives from nonprofit
5 organizations to apply to be registered with the
6 department for the purpose of providing inmate reentry
7 services; requiring the department to develop and
8 adopt policies and procedures for screening,
9 approving, and registering those nonprofit
10 organizations and their representatives; authorizing
11 the department to deny approval and registration to an
12 organization or a representative from an organization
13 if the department determines that the organization or
14 representative does not meet the department's
15 screening guidelines; authorizing the department and
16 each of the correctional facilities in this state to
17 retain the discretion to deny entry into a
18 correctional facility at any time to a representative
19 of an organization; requiring the department to post
20 certain information on its public website for certain
21 purposes; prohibiting the department from endorsing or
22 sponsoring any faith-based reentry program or
23 endorsing any specific religious message; prohibiting
24 the department from requiring an inmate to participate
25 in a faith-based program; providing rulemaking
26 authority; providing an effective date.

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28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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30 Section 1. Section 944.8025, Florida Statutes, is created
31 to read:

32 944.8025 Inmate reentry services by nonprofit
33 organizations.—

34 (1) Subject to the policies and procedures adopted under
35 subsection (2) for screening and approving applicants, the
36 department shall allow representatives from all nonprofit faith-
37 based, business and professional, civic, and community
38 organizations to apply to be registered with the department
39 under this section for the purpose of providing inmate reentry
40 services. Reentry services include, but are not limited to,
41 counseling, providing information on housing and job placement,
42 and money management assistance.

43 (2) The department shall develop and adopt policies and
44 procedures for screening, approving, and registering
45 organizations and their representatives that apply to provide
46 inmate reentry services under subsection (1). The department may
47 deny approval and registration of an organization or a
48 representative from an organization if the department determines
49 that the organization or representative does not meet the
50 department's screening guidelines. The department and each of
51 the correctional facilities in this state retain the discretion
52 to deny entry to a correctional facility at any time to a
53 representative of an organization listed under subsection (1)
54 regardless of whether that representative previously applied to
55 and was registered with the department to provide inmate reentry
56 services at a correctional facility.

57 (3) The department shall post a department telephone number
58 and provide an application for registration on its public

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59 website. The telephone number and application may be used by
60 representatives from an organization described in subsection (1)
61 to obtain information and to begin the application process for
62 registration with the department to provide inmate reentry
63 services.

64 (4) The department may not endorse or sponsor any faith-
65 based reentry program or endorse any specific religious message.
66 The department may not require an inmate to participate in a
67 faith-based program.

68 (5) The department shall adopt rules to implement this
69 section.

70 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2018.