A bill to be entitled
An act relating to inmate reentry services; creating
s. 944.8025, F.S.; requiring the Department of
Corrections to allow representatives from nonprofit
organizations to apply to be registered with the
department for the purpose of providing inmate reentry
services; requiring the department to develop and
adopt policies and procedures for screening,
approving, and registering those nonprofit
organizations and their representatives; authorizing
the department to deny approval and registration to an
organization or a representative from an organization
if the department determines that the organization or
representative does not meet the department's
screening guidelines; authorizing the department and
each of the correctional facilities in this state to
retain the discretion to deny entry into a
correctional facility at any time to a representative
of an organization; requiring the department to post
certain information on its public website for certain
purposes; prohibiting the department from endorsing or
sponsoring any faith-based reentry program or
endorsing any specific religious message; prohibiting
the department from requiring an inmate to participate
in a faith-based program; providing rulemaking
Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 944.8025, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

944.8025  Inmate reentry services by nonprofit organizations.—

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

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

(3) The department shall post a department telephone
number and provide an application for registration on its public
website. The telephone number and application may be used by
representatives from an organization described in subsection (1)
to obtain information and to begin the application process for
registration with the department to provide inmate reentry
services.

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

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

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