A bill to be entitled
An act relating to community reentry programs;
requiring the Department of Corrections to develop an
operational plan to implement a vocational work-
release pilot program in specified counties; requiring
that the operational plan describe the necessary
facilities, staff, budget, and methods for selecting
inmates to participate in the pilot program; providing
examples of vocational training or certification;
requiring inmates to be within a specified time period
of their release dates to be considered for
participation in the pilot program; providing criteria
to assess the risk of placing an inmate in the pilot
program; requiring that the department submit a report
to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified
date; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Vocational work-release pilot program.—
(1) The Department of Corrections shall develop an
operational plan to implement a vocational work-release pilot
program for the 2015-2016 fiscal year in Santa Rosa, Escambia,
Walton, and Okaloosa Counties. At a minimum, the operational
plan for the pilot program must describe and document:
(a) The resources needed for the program, including, but
not limited to, specific buildings, grounds, and property that
must be obtained for or redesignated as vocational work-release
facilities.
(b) The placement of facilities and services in specific areas to maximize the opportunity for participating inmates to benefit from being located near where they plan to live after completion of their sentences.

(c) The additional staff or changes to staff qualifications necessary to operate the program.

(d) The types of contracts the program intends to use for private providers that desire to provide on-the-job vocational training to eligible inmates.

(e) The security staffing plan.

(f) The programming plan.

(g) The proposed budget.

(h) The process and method for selecting an inmate to participate in the program, including any initial screening process, the criteria used in the risk assessment, and any prioritization of placement.

(i) The changes in law which are necessary to implement the program.

(2) The pilot program shall be designed to provide residential care, custody, control, and on-the-job vocational training or certification to eligible inmates. For purposes of the program, vocational training or certification include, but are not limited to, housing assistance, money management training, employment assistance, vocational education, life skills training, and substance abuse education or treatment.

(3) All inmates who are considered for participation in the program must be within 36 months of their release dates. The selection must be based upon a risk assessment process that includes, but is not limited to, whether:
(a) The inmate has potential for rehabilitation and has the need for on-the-job vocational training.

(b) The inmate can be placed in the geographic area where he or she is from, or has family or identified friends, and intends to reside in the area upon release from custody.

(4) The pilot program may include an existing community work-release program established pursuant to s. 945.091, Florida Statutes, as a service provider, but the existing program must provide enhanced reentry services to participating inmates, including, but not limited to, housing assistance, money management training, employment assistance, vocational education, life skills training, and substance abuse education or treatment.

Section 2. The Department of Corrections shall submit a status report related to the vocational work-release pilot program authorized by this act by February 15, 2015, to the Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report must document the projected number of inmates to be served by the pilot program in the 2015-2016 fiscal year and the funding needed to implement the operational plan.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.