

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.

27

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

29

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  
58 number and provide an application for registration on its public  
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.