

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 151

FISCAL
NOTE

BY SENATORS SYPOLT AND CLEMENTS

[Introduced January 9, 2020; referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary; and then to the
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §15A-4-21 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to requiring the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation to assist inmates, prior to
 3 release, obtain a certified copy of their birth certificate, a Social Security card, and a
 4 driver's license or a state-issued identification card; and requiring the commissioner to
 5 provide those inmates instruction in basic life skills, including, but not limited to, managing
 6 personal finances, writing a check, balancing a checkbook, writing a resume, and being
 7 interviewed for employment.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 4. CORRECTIONS MANAGEMENT.

§15A-4-21. Director of employment; director of housing; released inmates; duties.

1 (a) The commissioner may employ or contract for a Director of Employment and a Director
 2 of Housing for released inmates. ~~If the commissioner does not employ or contract for a Director~~
 3 of Employment and a Director of Housing for released inmates, then the commissioner, or a
 4 qualified employee or employees of the division the commissioner designates, shall fulfill the
 5 requirements of this section.

6 (b) The Director of Employment shall:

7 (1) Work with federal, state, county, and local government and private entities to negotiate
 8 agreements which facilitate employment opportunities for released inmates; ~~The Director of~~
 9 ~~Housing shall work with federal, state, county, and local government and private entities to~~
 10 ~~negotiate agreements which facilitate housing opportunities for released inmates. The Director of~~
 11 ~~Employment shall~~

12 (2) Investigate job opportunities and give every possible assistance in helping released
 13 inmates find employment; ~~The Director of Housing shall work in conjunction with the Bureau of~~
 14 ~~Community Corrections and the Parole Board to reduce release delays due to lack of a home~~
 15 ~~plan, develop community housing resources, and provide short-term loans to released inmates~~
 16 ~~for costs related to reentry into the community~~

17 (3) During the last six months of imprisonment of an inmate, assist the inmate obtain, to
18 the extent that the inmate does not already possess, a certified copy of his or her birth certificate,
19 a Social Security card, and a driver's license or a state issued identification card; and

20 (4) Provide instruction in basic life skills including, but not limited to, managing personal
21 finances, writing a check, balancing a check book, writing a resume, and being interviewed for
22 employment.

23 (c) The Director of Housing shall work:

24 (1) With federal, state, county, and local government and private entities to negotiate
25 agreements which facilitate housing opportunities for released inmates; and

26 (2) In conjunction with the Bureau of Community Corrections and the Parole Board, to
27 reduce release delays due to lack of a home plan, develop community housing resources, and
28 provide short-term loans to released inmates for costs related to reentry into the community.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation to assist inmates, prior to release, obtain a certified copy of his or her birth certificate, a Social Security card, and a driver's license or a state issued identification card. It also requires the division to provide those inmates instruction in basic life skills including, but not limited to, managing personal finances, writing a check, balancing a check book, writing a resume and being interviewed for employment.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.