
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 191 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, BULLOCK, FREEMAN, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS,
SANCHEZ, KINSEY, KHAN, CIRESI, HOHENSTEIN, KRAJEWSKI,
DELLOSO, DEASY, KINKEAD AND N. NELSON, MARCH 8, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 8, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in safe community reentry, further
3 providing for definitions and for Safe Community Reentry
4 Program.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 4902 of Title 61 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:

9 § 4902. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
11 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 * * *

14 "Reentry certificate." A certificate that serves as proof of
15 participation in the program and completion of all approved
16 programs while incarcerated.

17 Section 2. Section 4903 of Title 61 is amended by adding
18 subsections to read:

1 § 4903. Safe Community Reentry Program.

2 * * *

3 (f) Reentry certificate.--

4 (1) Prior to an offender's release, the department shall
5 issue the offender a reentry certificate, which indicates, at
6 a minimum, the following:

7 (i) The needs-assessed treatment programs completed
8 by the offender.

9 (ii) The educational programs completed by the
10 offender, including:

11 (A) Any academic program that the offender
12 completed or in which the offender enrolled during
13 the current incarceration of the offender.

14 (B) Unless completed as part of an
15 institutional-based program, all general education
16 development, high school and higher education program
17 information self-reported by the offender.

18 (C) If the offender self-reported completion of
19 general education development, the high school or
20 higher education requirements completed.

21 (D) Any academic program in which the offender
22 is enrolled during the current incarceration of the
23 offender and the current status as of the date of the
24 reentry certificate.

25 (iii) The vocational and work history of the
26 offender, including job skills, work details, on-the-job
27 training and vocational education participation.

28 (iv) The personal development of the offender and
29 other special programs in which the offender
30 participated, including:

1 (A) Voluntary programming completed by the
2 offender that is beyond the programs required or
3 identified through an assessment.

4 (B) Programs that the offender believes will
5 enhance the overall development of the offender and
6 the successful reentry of the offender into the
7 community.

8 (2) The department shall provide for the creation and
9 printing of a reentry certificate for an offender at the
10 facility where the offender is located.

11 (3) If, for any reason, the offender is deemed
12 ineligible for release after the printing of the reentry
13 certificate, the department shall destroy the reentry
14 certificate.

15 (4) If a discrepancy in the information provided on the
16 reentry certificate is discovered, the offender may request a
17 corrective reprint of the reentry certificate subject to
18 verification by the department.

19 (5) After release from incarceration, the offender may
20 request copies of the reentry certificate from the
21 department. Copies shall be printed and notarized by the
22 facility where the offender was incarcerated.

23 (6) A reentry certificate presented to an employer shall
24 create a presumption of due care as to the hiring of an
25 individual to whom the reentry certificate was issued in
26 relation to the individual's stated programmatic progress,
27 educational advancement, workforce skills and completion of
28 the program.

29 (g) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be
30 construed to relieve an employer from ensuring the completion of

1 a required background clearance, meeting any other related
2 industry standard or providing appropriate supervision for the
3 position.

4 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.