

AN ACT

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

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

7 Section 1. Section 4903(b) of Title 61 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

9 § 4903. Safe Community Reentry Program.

10 * * *

11 (b) Assessment and plan.--

12 * * *

13 (4) The correctional institution or the board shall
14 counsel and assist in the completion of applications for
15 public benefit programs at least 20 days prior to release for
16 which each incarcerated individual may be eligible following
17 release from incarceration. Counseling shall include the
18 following public benefit programs and assistance:

- 1 (i) Medical assistance.
- 2 (ii) Medicaid for former foster care youth.
- 3 (iii) Medical assistance for workers with
4 disabilities.
- 5 (iv) Medicare savings.
- 6 (v) Children's Health Insurance Program.
- 7 (vi) Health insurance marketplace.
- 8 (vii) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- 9 (viii) Cash assistance.
- 10 (ix) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
- 11 (x) Long-term living services, home and community-
12 based.
- 13 (xi) Long-term living services, nursing home and
14 related facilities.
- 15 (xii) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
- 16 (xiii) Free or reduced price school meals.
- 17 (xiv) Child Care Works.
- 18 (xv) Head Start.
- 19 (xvi) Women, Infants and Children.
- 20 (xvii) Department of Human Service's family planning
21 services.
- 22 (xviii) Access to oral contraceptives.
- 23 (xix) Public housing assistance and shelter needs.
- 24 (xx) Emergency shelter for victims of domestic
25 violence.
- 26 (xxi) Employment assistance.
- 27 (xxii) Assistance with Supplemental Security Income.
- 28 (xxiii) Assistance with Supplemental Security
29 Disability Income.
- 30 (xxiv) Information on family law issues relating to

1 custody, child support, divorce and domestic violence.

2 (xxv) Referrals for free legal assistance.

3 (xxvi) Information on community mental health and
4 emotional support programs.

5 (xxvii) Other Federal or State programs selected by
6 the correctional institution or board.

7 * * *

8 Section 2. Section 4904(a) introductory paragraph and (b) of
9 Title 61 are amended and subsection (a) is amended by adding a
10 paragraph to read:

11 § 4904. Contract for services.

12 (a) Authority.--The [department] correctional institution
13 and the board may contract with community organizations and
14 other nonprofit or for-profit entities to provide programs and
15 services under this chapter. The programs and services provided
16 under these contracts may include:

17 * * *

18 (16) Assisting incarcerated individuals in applying for
19 and obtaining access to public benefit programs upon release
20 from incarceration and providing information about any of the
21 public benefit programs and assistance under section 4903(b)
22 (4) (relating to Safe Community Reentry Program).

23 (b) Accountability.--To ensure accountability, any contract
24 entered under this section shall contain specific performance
25 measures that the [department] correctional institution and the
26 board shall use to evaluate compliance with the terms of the
27 contract.

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