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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1002 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY FIEDLER, SOLOMON, MURT, HILL-EVANS, McCLINTON,  
CEPHAS, HARRIS, RABB, FRANKEL, WILLIAMS, KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG,  
MADDEN, CALTAGIRONE, STURLA, DALEY, HOWARD, FREEMAN, SANCHEZ  
AND HOHENSTEIN, APRIL 2, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 2, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions, providing  
3 for mentorship program for former incarcerated individuals.

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

6 Section 1. Title 61 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 5908. Mentorship program for former incarcerated individuals.

9 (a) Establishment.--The department shall promulgate  
10 regulations to establish a mentorship program for former  
11 incarcerated individuals. The program shall authorize former  
12 incarcerated individuals to:

13 (1) mentor current incarcerated individuals; and

14 (2) assist current incarcerated individuals in  
15 acclimating to society upon release or discharge from  
16 correctional institutions.

17 (b) Duties.--To qualify for participation in the program

1 established under subsection (a), a former incarcerated  
2 individual shall:

3 (1) participate in a mentorship training course  
4 established by the department, which shall include education  
5 about trauma-informed care; and

6 (2) meet any other criteria required by the department  
7 to successfully mentor a current incarcerated individual.

8 (c) Mental health services.--The department shall provide  
9 access to mental health services for a former incarcerated  
10 individual who mentors a current incarcerated individual under  
11 this section and the current incarcerated individual while in  
12 the department facilities. Nothing in this subsection shall be  
13 construed to prevent a current incarcerated individual from  
14 accessing mental health services at any other time during the  
15 current incarcerated individual's incarceration.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.