To: Corrections; Appropriations

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2002

By: Senator(s) Smith

SENATE BILL NO. 2331

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO CONDUCT A PILOT PROGRAM FOR INTENSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG TREATMENT FOR INMATES AT THE CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; TO PLACE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON THE PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE AFTER-CARE MONITORING, SERVICES AND TRANSITION PLAN FOR INMATES; TO REQUIRE RECIDIVISM REPORTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Corrections may establish a five-year pilot program at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility to provide a two-hundred-fifty-bed unit dedicated to an intensive and comprehensive alcohol and other drug treatment program for inmates. The department shall establish guidelines for the program consistent with the mission of public safety. The program shall be a prison-based treatment program designed to reduce substance abuse by inmates, correct dysfunctional thinking and behavioral patterns, and prepare inmates to make a successful and crime-free readjustment to the community.

(2) (a) The department may contract with public, private or nonprofit organizations to develop, operate and administer the treatment program. If the department contracts for the private operation of the program, the department shall reimburse the private contractor at the per diem rate allowed regional facilities under Section 47-5-933.

(b) An inmate who is within eighteen (18) months of his earned release date or parole date may be placed in the program.

(3) The program shall consist, but is not limited to, the following components:
(a) An assessment and placement component using a recidivism needs assessment of the inmates;
(b) An intensive and comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation component which addresses the specific drug or alcohol problem of the inmate. This component shall include relapse prevention strategies, anger management strategies and regimented discipline strategies.
(c) An aftercare post-release component that has a specific transition plan for each inmate. The transition plan must address specific post-release needs such as employment, housing, medical care, relapse prevention and treatment. The plan shall require personnel to assist the inmate with these needs and to assist in finding community-based programs for the inmate. The plan shall require the inmate to be tracked in at least thirty-day intervals to measure compliance with his established transition plan.
(d) A monitoring assessment of recidivism containing post-release history of substance abuse, breaches of trust, arrests, convictions, employment, community functioning, and marital and family interaction.

(4) The department shall file a report annually on the program with specific data on recidivism of inmates including the data required in subsection (3)(d).

(5) The program authorized under this section may be renewed if it meets performance requirements as may be determined by the Legislature.

(6) This section shall repeal on January 1, 2008.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2002.