

By: Representative Banks

To: Corrections

HOUSE BILL NO. 625

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-177, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO PROVIDE THE CITY OF
3 JACKSON CERTAIN NOTICE BEFORE AN OFFENDER IS RELEASED TO THE CITY;
4 TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO ESTABLISH A CERTAIN
5 PILOT PROGRAM WITH THE CITY CONCERNING OFFENDER RE-ENTRY; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 47-5-177, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 47-5-177. (1) At least fifteen (15) days prior to the
11 release of an offender from the custody of the department because
12 of discharge, parole, pardon, temporary personal leave or pass, or
13 otherwise, except for sickness or death in the offender's family,
14 the director of records of the department shall give written or
15 electronic notice of such release to the sheriff of the county and
16 to the chief of police of the municipality where the offender was
17 convicted. If the offender is paroled to a county other than the
18 county of conviction, the director of records shall give written
19 or electronic notice of the release to the sheriff, district
20 attorney and circuit judge of the county and to the chief of



21 police of the municipality where the offender is paroled and to
22 the sheriff of the county and to the chief of police of the
23 municipality where the offender was convicted. The department
24 shall notify the parole officer of the county where the offender
25 is paroled or discharged to probation of any chronic mental
26 disorder incurred by the offender, of any type of infectious
27 disease for which the offender has been examined and treated, and
28 of any medications provided to the offender for such conditions.

29 (2) The commissioner shall require the director of records
30 to clearly identify the notice of release of an offender who has
31 been convicted of arson at any time. The fact that the offender
32 to be released had been convicted of arson at any time shall
33 appear prominently on the notice of release and the sheriff shall
34 notify all officials who are responsible for investigation of
35 arson within the county of such offender's release and the chief
36 of police shall notify all such officials within the municipality
37 of such offender's release.

38 (3) In addition to the notice requirements prescribed under
39 this section, the Department of Corrections shall directly notify
40 the Chief of Police of the City of Jackson prior to the release of
41 any offender who will be released in the city.

42 **SECTION 2.** As part of the state's initiative of assisting
43 ex-offenders into re-entry, the Department of Corrections may
44 conduct a pilot program utilizing the City of Jackson's Fresh



45 Start Program to determine the best services and best practices
46 for ex-offenders.

47 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
48 and after July 1, 2018.

