

By: Representative Banks

To: Corrections

HOUSE BILL NO. 641

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "HALFWAY HOUSE GRANT PROGRAM ACT"; TO  
 2 PROVIDE A FUND FOR SUCH PROGRAM IN THE STATE TREASURY; TO PROVIDE  
 3 THAT THE FUND SHALL BE UTILIZED BY A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO  
 4 OFFER SUPPORT TO THE INCARCERATED WHO ARE NEAR COMPLETION OF THEIR  
 5 SENTENCES; TO REQUIRE THE FUND BE UTILIZED TO IMPLEMENT CERTAIN  
 6 OBJECTIVES TO ASSIST SUCH OFFENDERS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
 7 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS SHALL BE THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FUND;  
 8 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) This act shall be known and may be cited as  
 11 the "Halfway House Grant Program Act."

12 (2) There is created in the State Treasury a fund designated  
 13 as the "Halfway House Grant Program Fund" referred to in this act  
 14 as "fund."

15 (3) The fund shall be used solely to provide grants to a  
 16 nonprofit organization that focuses on providing support to the  
 17 incarcerated and the family members of the incarcerated via  
 18 implementing the following objectives that the organization will  
 19 attain:



20           (a) Obtaining a building to house offenders and hire  
21 adequate certified staff including counselors, educators and  
22 clergy members;

23           (b) Servicing offenders who are near completion of  
24 their sentences by enrolling the offenders into the organization's  
25 intensive rehabilitation program for a minimum of six (6) months  
26 and a maximum of eighteen (18) months where such offenders will  
27 undergo vigorous behavioral and faith based initiatives that will  
28 teach offenders how to live in society;

29           (c) Working closely with various local companies who  
30 are willing to hire and train individuals with criminal  
31 backgrounds as well as by having the nonprofit organization  
32 transport offenders to and from their work site;

33           (d) Acquiring land so that offenders may be enrolled  
34 into an agriculture work program where they would harvest crops  
35 and sell the produce they have grown; and

36           (e) Providing a mandatory financial responsibility  
37 program for offenders to educate such offenders on  
38 checking/savings accounts, self-employment and money management  
39 skills.

40           (4) The fund shall be administered by the Department of  
41 Corrections which shall promulgate reasonable regulations and  
42 rules consistent with the purposes of this act.



43           (5) The Department of Corrections shall be the agency  
44 authorized to accept grants, gifts, donations, bequeaths and  
45 appropriations of state and federal funds for deposit in the fund.

46           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
47 and after July 1, 2018.

