

By: Representative Newman

To: Corrections

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 586

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 1, CHAPTER 429, LAWS OF 2021, TO
2 REMOVE THE REPEALER ON THE PROVISION OF LAW THAT AUTHORIZES THE
3 SHERIFF OF RANKIN COUNTY TO ESTABLISH A PILOT WORK RELEASE PROGRAM
4 FOR NONVIOLENT OFFENDERS CONFINED IN JAIL; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 1, Chapter 429, Laws of 2021, is amended
8 as follows:

9 Section 1. (1) The Sheriff of Rankin County is authorized
10 to establish a Pilot Work Release Program. No person sentenced for
11 a crime listed in Section 97-3-2 shall be eligible for
12 participation in the program established under this act. During
13 the pilot phase of the program, there shall be a limit of
14 twenty-five (25) people in the program at a time.

15 (2) The sheriff shall collect and maintain data which shall
16 be shared semiannually with the Joint Legislative Committee on
17 Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) and the
18 Corrections and Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force in sortable
19 electronic format. The first report shall be made before January



15, 2022, and in six-month intervals thereafter. The data shall include:

(a) Total number of participants at the beginning of each month by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(b) Total number of participants at the end of each month by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(c) Total number of participants who began the program in each month by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(d) Total number of participants who successfully completed the program in each month by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(e) Total number of participants who left the program in each month and reason for leaving by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(f) Total number of participants who were arrested for a new criminal offense while in the program in each month by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(g) Total number of participants who were convicted of a new crime while in the program in each month by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(h) Total number of participants who completed the program and were convicted of a new crime within three (3) years of completing the program;

(i) Total amount earned by participants and how the earnings were distributed in each month;



(j) Results of any initial risk and needs assessments conducted on each participant by race, gender, and offenses charged; and

(k) Any other data or information as requested by the task force.

(3) Any person who has been sentenced to confinement in jail or who has been sentenced for a felony conviction but is confined in a jail may request assignment to the work release program established under this act. Admission to the program shall be in the discretion of the sheriff. The sheriff may further authorize the offender to participate in educational or other rehabilitative programs designed to supplement his work release employment or to prepare the person for successful reentry. No offender shall be eligible for this program if he has more than one (1) year remaining on their sentence.

(4) The sheriff shall adopt and publish rules and regulations prior to accepting inmates. These rules and regulations shall at a minimum include all requirements for work release programs established pursuant to Sections 47-5-451 through 47-5-471. Participating employers shall pay no less than the prevailing wage for the position and shall under no circumstance pay less than the federal minimum wage.

(5) Any offender assigned to such a program by the sheriff who, without proper authority or just cause, leaves the area to which he has been assigned to work or attend educational or other



70 rehabilitative programs, or leaves the vehicle or route of travel
71 involved in his or her going to or returning from such place, will
72 be guilty of escape as provided in Section 97-9-49. An offender
73 who is found guilty under this section shall be ineligible for
74 further participation in a work release program during his or her
75 current term of confinement.

76 (6) The offender shall maintain an account through a local
77 financial institution and shall provide a copy of a check stub to
78 the sheriff. The offender may be required to pay up to
79 twenty-five percent (25%) of his or her wages after mandatory
80 deductions for the following purposes:

81 (a) To pay support of dependents or to the Mississippi
82 Department of Human Services on behalf of dependents as may be
83 ordered by a judge of competent jurisdiction; and

84 (b) To pay any fines, restitution, or costs as ordered
85 by the court to include any fines and fees associated with
86 obtaining a valid driver's license upon release.

87 (7) The inmate shall have access to his or her account to
88 purchase incidental expenses.

89 (8) The Joint Legislative Committee on Performance
90 Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) shall conduct a review of
91 the work release program established under this act and produce a
92 report to the Legislature on their effectiveness by December 1,
93 2022. The PEER Committee shall seek the assistance of the
94 Corrections and Criminal Justice Task Force and may seek



95 assistance from any other criminal justice experts it deems
96 necessary during its review.

97 * * *

98 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
99 and after July 1, 2022, and shall be repealed from and after June
100 30, 2022.

