

By: Representative Currie

To: Corrections;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1600

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A POST-RELEASE SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM, WHICH  
2 SHALL BE OPERATED BY A THIRD PARTY ENTITY THAT IS SELECTED THROUGH  
3 A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP); TO PROVIDE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION  
4 AND PROCUREMENT OF THE CONTRACT SHALL FALL UNDER THE PURVIEW OF  
5 THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY; TO PROVIDE THAT  
6 THE RFP SHALL BE REVIEWED BY A CERTAIN COMMITTEE WHO SHALL  
7 EVALUATE THE RFP FOR CERTAIN CRITERIA; TO PROVIDE THE DUTIES OF  
8 THE COORDINATOR WHO SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE  
9 CERTAIN DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AS THEY RELATE TO  
10 THE PROGRAM; TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) (a) This section creates a Post-Release  
13 Services Pilot Program. The Mississippi Department of Employment  
14 Security (MDES) shall issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking  
15 a third party entity, which shall be known as the coordinator  
16 under this section, to operate the program. The RFP shall be  
17 structured as a hybrid contract with a base cost plus a  
18 performance incentive rebate as set out under this section, for a  
19 term of five (5) years, with the goal of reducing recidivism  
20 through a variety of support services to individuals who leave  
21 prison. Recidivism reduction shall be determined by the Joint  
22 Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure



23 Review (PEER) at the three-year, four-year and five-year period.  
24 The RFP shall be released on August 1, 2024, and the entity  
25 selected shall be announced on October 1, 2024, with the contract  
26 commencing on November 1, 2024. PEER shall evaluate and determine  
27 savings through recidivism reduction based upon the established  
28 baseline at the time of the selection of the coordinator.

29 The administration and procurement of the contract shall fall  
30 under the purview of MDES.

31 (b) The RFP shall require a plan to implement  
32 technology solutions for successful case management and once the  
33 RFP is awarded the coordinator shall work with MDES and the  
34 Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) to provide data to  
35 the State Longitudinal Data System as authorized in Section  
36 37-154-1.

37 (c) The RFP shall be reviewed by a committee consisting  
38 of seven (7) appointees from the following organizations:

39 (i) Mississippi Department of Employment Security  
40 (MDES);

41 (ii) Department of Finance and Administration  
42 (DFA);

43 (iii) Mississippi Department of Corrections  
44 (MDOC);

45 (iv) Accelerate Mississippi Workforce Development  
46 Program;



47 (v) One (1) individual appointed by both the House  
48 Corrections Chairman;

49 (vi) One (1) individual appointed by the Senate  
50 Corrections Chairman ; and

51 (vii) One (1) appointee from the Governor.

52 (d) The committee established under paragraph (c) of  
53 this subsection shall evaluate the following criteria that shall  
54 include the following scoring metrics which have been proven to  
55 materially reduce recidivism:

56 (i) Established partnerships with employers who  
57 are committed to hiring formerly incarcerated individuals (50%);

58 (ii) A plan for transportation and wrap-around  
59 services (20%);

60 (iii) Experience of team members working with and  
61 within the MDOC (20%); and

62 (iv) Demonstration of a return on investment to  
63 the taxpayers of the state (10%).

64 (2) (a) The coordinator shall put forth a detailed plan for  
65 inter-agency collaboration of existing resources and programs, and  
66 it shall possess experience in applying for and administering  
67 Department of Justice and Department of Labor grants and other  
68 federal supplemental funds.

69 (b) The coordinator shall also provide services to all  
70 program participants, based upon their criminogenic risk needs  
71 assessment, which are to include employment connections, housing



72 assistance, drug and alcohol counseling, family reunification,  
73 anger management counseling, personal finance and budgeting, and  
74 other coordinated support services. These services shall be  
75 provided in conjunction with MDOC parole and probation officers,  
76 if requested by coordinator.

77 (3) Before entering the program, MDOC shall provide all  
78 program participants with a social security card, a provisional  
79 driver's license, as required under Section 63-1-309, or other  
80 identification card, and a birth certificate. The department  
81 shall also provide the coordinator a criminogenic risk needs  
82 assessment upon the enrollment of all new inmates into the  
83 program.

84 (4) The pilot program shall include 1,000 inmates chosen by  
85 MDOC by random selection; however, preference shall be given to  
86 inmates who are veterans and returning to a community in the State  
87 of Mississippi.

88 (5) The program shall be funded by an annual appropriation  
89 of up to \$2.5 million which shall be dispersed through the MDES to  
90 the selected coordinator. DFA shall make funds available November  
91 1, 2024, for the program and by October 1 for every following  
92 fiscal year.

93 (6) At the three, four, and five year mark, based upon the  
94 findings of PEER on the impact of reduced recidivism to the state,  
95 the coordinator shall receive a rebate equal to 33% of the actual  
96 cost savings to the state derived from incarceration avoidance.



97           (7)   (a)   The coordinator shall work with the Department of  
98 Public Safety to develop a mobile driver's license solution to  
99 ensure all inmates entering the program have access to a temporary  
100 6-month driver's license as allowed by law.

101                   (b)   The coordinator shall establish and facilitate a  
102 community shareholder advisory group of no less than twelve (12)  
103 individuals, six (6) of whom are formerly incarcerated, and the  
104 group shall meet on a quarterly basis.

105                   (c)   The coordinator shall also provide an annual update  
106 to the House and Senate Corrections Committees at the request of  
107 the chairmen of such committees and to the Chair of the Senate  
108 Economic and Workforce Development Committee, and Chair of the  
109 House Workforce Development Committee by October 1 each year of  
110 the existence of the program.

111           (8)   As used in this section:

112                   (a)   "Criminogenic risk needs assessment" means domains  
113 related to the antisocial attitudes, behavior, personality  
114 patterns, and/or beliefs; affiliations with criminal or antisocial  
115 groups or friends; substance use abuse and/or mental health  
116 disorders; strained poor marital family relationships; history of  
117 unstable employment or low performance or satisfaction with work  
118 or school; financial and/or housing instability and low level of  
119 education or job skills.



120 (b) "Recidivism" means a return to prison, as a result  
121 of either a new conviction or a violation of post-release  
122 supervision within three (3) years of an inmate's prison release.

123 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
124 and after July 1, 2024.

