

**SECOND ENGROSSMENT  
with Senate Amendments**

**REENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1549**

Introduced by

Representatives Klemin, Hanson, Stemen

Senators Larson, Davison

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 12-44.1 and two new sections to  
2 chapter 54-23.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the correctional facility grant  
3 program, housing task force, and criminal justice data collection; to amend and reenact section  
4 12-47-31 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to offenders released from the department  
5 of corrections and rehabilitation; to provide for a statement of legislative intent; to provide for a  
6 legislative management study; and to provide for a legislative management report.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

8 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 12-44.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
9 and enacted as follows:

10 **Correctional facility grant committee - Correctional facility grant program - Report.**

- 11 1. The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall establish a correctional facility  
12 grant committee consisting of two members appointed by the director of the  
13 department of corrections and rehabilitation, two members appointed by the North  
14 Dakota association of counties, the commissioner of recovery and re-entry, and the  
15 director of the behavioral health division of the department of health and human  
16 services. The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation shall choose  
17 one member to serve as chairman. The committee shall:
- 18 a. Establish criteria for the evaluation of existing re-entry programs, including  
19 educational and counseling programs used by existing re-entry programs;
  - 20 b. Establish criteria for the evaluation of grant applications;
  - 21 c. Establish policies for screening and implementing grants under this section;
  - 22 d. Establish criteria and policies for evaluating programs funded under this section;

- 1           e. Establish criteria and policies necessary for the successful administration and
- 2                     management of the grant program;
- 3           f. Administer grants to county, regional, or tribal correctional facilities; and
- 4           g. Provide annual reports to the department of corrections and rehabilitation
- 5                     regarding the status of the correctional facility grant program.
- 6       2. The correctional facility grant committee shall administer a grant program to expand
- 7             access to evidence-based programming in county, regional, and tribal correctional
- 8             facilities.
- 9       3. Grants awarded under this section must prioritize county, regional, or tribal
- 10            correctional facilities with no existing re-entry, educational, counseling, or other
- 11            evidence-based programs. Grants may be awarded to support access to culturally
- 12            responsive treatment alternative programs.

13       **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 12-47-31 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15       **12-47-31. Discharge of offenders –~~Clothing~~–~~Transportation~~.**

- 16       1. The department of corrections and rehabilitation, in coordination with the department
- 17             of transportation, shall facilitate a process for offenders applying for photo
- 18             identification, including a driver's license, nondriver identification card, temporary
- 19             driver's license, or temporary nondriver identification card.
- 20       2. The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall provide an offender released
- 21             from the department appropriate clothing and transportation to a reasonable point as
- 22             specified in the release plan, based upon need.
- 23       3. The department of corrections and rehabilitation, in cooperation with the department of
- 24             health and human services, shall connect all eligible offenders to Medicaid assistance
- 25             or other health and human services programs before the offender is released from the
- 26             department.

27       **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 54-23.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
28 and enacted as follows:

29       **Housing task force - Report to legislative management.**

- 30       1. The department of corrections and rehabilitation shall establish a task force on
- 31             housing to address barriers to accessing housing for probationers, parolees, and other

1 individuals released from the custody of the department. The housing task force must  
2 include representation from the division of adult services, including parole and  
3 probation services, the housing finance agency, the department of health and human  
4 services, and community housing providers.

5 2. The task force shall provide an annual report to the legislative management relating to:

6 a. The implementation of a housing assistance program to provide monetary  
7 assistance to eligible probationers, parolees, and other individuals released from  
8 the custody of the department of corrections and rehabilitation. The program may  
9 include expanding eligibility requirements for housing assistance programs to  
10 include individuals released from incarceration.

11 b. The implementation of a housing assistance program for eligible sexual  
12 offenders, including the desirability and feasibility of using master leases to  
13 improve accessibility.

14 c. Procedures for improving awareness regarding available housing options and  
15 improving coordination among housing providers, the department of health and  
16 human services, and the department of corrections and rehabilitation.

17 d. The capacity of sober housing and low barrier housing for individuals released  
18 from the custody of the department of corrections and rehabilitation.

19 **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 54-23.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
20 and enacted as follows:

21 **Criminal justice data - Report to legislative management.**

22 1. The department of corrections and rehabilitation, in cooperation with the behavioral  
23 health division of the department of health and human services, representatives from  
24 each judicial district, and representatives from the adult services division, including  
25 parole and probation services and local or regional jails, shall examine criminal justice  
26 data, including data collection, retention, and dissemination.

27 2. The department shall provide a report to the legislative management relating to  
28 procedures for:

29 a. Tracking uniform data points;

30 b. Standardizing and automating criminal justice data collection, retention, and  
31 dissemination; and

1           c. Improving data connectivity between system partners, including a proposal to  
2           develop a data sharing portal to alert the department of health and human  
3           services of changes to the Medicaid status of offenders in custody with the  
4           department of corrections and rehabilitation.

5           **SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE INTENT - FEDERAL GRANTS.** It is the intent of the sixty-ninth  
6 legislative assembly that the department of corrections and rehabilitation apply for federal  
7 grants from the United States department of justice to fund a temporary justice reinvestment  
8 coordinator position and to support the general funds required for the implementation of re-entry  
9 programs.

10          **SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY - EXPANDING ACCESS TO**  
11 **CRIMINAL RECORD SEALING.** During the 2025-26 interim, the legislative management shall  
12 consider studying expanding access to criminal record sealing. The study must include the  
13 automation of record sealing for individuals eligible to file a petition to seal a criminal record  
14 under chapter 12-60.1-02, the expansion of eligibility for record sealing, and the potential costs  
15 and benefits of creating processes for criminal record expungement alongside, or in lieu of,  
16 avenues for criminal record sealing. The legislative management shall report its findings and  
17 recommendations, together with any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations,  
18 to the seventieth legislative assembly.