

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1022

Introduced by Robak, 22; Kiel, 9; Suttle, 10; Thompson, 14

Read first time January 6, 2000

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to corrections; to create the Community
2 Criminal Justice Treatment Task Force; to provide intent
3 and establish duties; and to provide a termination date.
4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. The Legislature recognizes that:

2 (1) Most people with mental illness are law-abiding,
3 contributing members of society;

4 (2) Mental illness, like many other physical disorders,
5 is treatable and can be successfully managed if people with mental
6 illness are properly identified and provided with appropriate
7 intervention alternatives. To encourage mental health treatment, a
8 range of intervention alternatives have been statutorily authorized
9 in the Nebraska Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services Act,
10 the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act, and the Rehabilitation
11 and Support Mental Health Services Incentive Act;

12 (3) Existing identification and intervention services
13 appear to be inadequate for people with mental illness who are
14 housed in local correctional facilities for having committed minor
15 criminal offenses;

16 (4) Identifying and providing services for people with
17 mental illness is not the focus of local corrections which lack
18 financial resources and trained personnel for this purpose;

19 (5) While community-based, mental health providers may
20 offer identification and intervention services, these services are
21 not uniformly provided for people housed in local correctional
22 facilities; and

23 (6) A coordinated effort between local corrections and
24 community-based, mental health providers is necessary to ensure
25 that people with mental illness are being adequately identified and
26 served.

27 Sec. 2. (1) The Community Criminal Justice Treatment
28 Task Force is created. The task force shall consist of no more

1 than fifteen members. The Governor shall appoint at least one
2 member to the task force representing each of the following
3 interests: Local law enforcement; local corrections; local
4 prosecutors; defense attorneys; trial judges; mental health boards;
5 private mental health care providers; mental health regions; and
6 mental health advocate organizations. The task force shall also
7 include as members the Director of Health and Human Services or his
8 or her designee, a representative of the mental health
9 administration of the Department of Correctional Services as
10 designated by the Director of Correctional Services, the
11 chairperson of the State Mental Health Planning and Evaluation
12 Council or his or her designee, and the chairperson of the Nebraska
13 Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice or his or her
14 designee.

15 (2) The task force shall hold its first meeting within
16 ten days after the effective date of this act. Members shall
17 receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for their necessary
18 and actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on
19 the task force. The task force shall receive administrative
20 support from the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and
21 Criminal Justice.

22 (3) The purpose of the task force is to produce a report
23 to the Legislature by December 1, 2000. The report shall:

24 (a) Detail the statewide status quo as it relates to
25 mental illness screening, identification, and intervention for
26 people in local correctional facilities;

27 (b) Examine any correlation between being homeless and
28 the propensity of people with mental illness to commit crimes and

1 to not receive treatment;

2 (c) Recommend statewide procedures for training of local
3 corrections officials to help them identify and appropriately
4 intervene on behalf of people with mental illness;

5 (d) Establish guidelines for a uniform intake screening
6 process to identify mental illness;

7 (e) Propose, if needed, to supplement or create
8 intervention and transition programs for persons in local
9 correctional facilities and develop a method for tracking people
10 with mental illness during incarceration or probation;

11 (f) Examine funding options at the state and federal
12 levels to achieve the outcomes recommended by the task force; and

13 (g) Develop recommendations for implementing a pilot
14 program to provide intervention and transition services for people
15 with mental illness.

16 (4) The task force shall terminate on January 1, 2001.