

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 713**

Introduced by Cavanaugh, J., 9.

Read first time January 18, 2023

Committee: Executive Board

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to criminal justice; to amend section 50-434,  
2 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating  
3 to the Committee on Justice Reinvestment Oversight; to provide for a  
4 correctional forecasting tool; to require agencies to cooperate as  
5 prescribed; to require confidentiality and data security; to repeal  
6 the original section; and to declare an emergency.  
7 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 50-434, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
2 amended to read:

3 50-434 (1) The Legislature finds that ~~while serious crime in the~~  
4 ~~State of Nebraska has not increased in the past five years,~~ the prison  
5 population continues to increase as does the amount spent on correctional  
6 issues. The Legislature further finds that a need exists to closely  
7 examine the criminal justice system of the State of Nebraska in order to  
8 increase public safety while concurrently reducing correctional spending  
9 and reinvesting in strategies that decrease crime and strengthen Nebraska  
10 communities.

11 ~~(2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the State of Nebraska~~  
12 ~~work cooperatively with the Council of State Governments Justice Center~~  
13 ~~to study and identify innovative solutions and evidence-based practices~~  
14 ~~to develop a data-driven approach to reduce correctional spending and~~  
15 ~~reinvest savings in strategies that can decrease recidivism and increase~~  
16 ~~public safety and for the executive, legislative, and judicial branches~~  
17 ~~of Nebraska state government to work with the Council of State~~  
18 ~~Governments Justice Center in this process.~~

19 (2) ~~(3)~~ The Committee on Justice Reinvestment Oversight is created  
20 as a special legislative committee to maintain continuous oversight of  
21 the Nebraska Justice Reinvestment Initiative and related issues.

22 (3) ~~(4)~~ The special legislative committee shall be comprised of five  
23 members of the Legislature selected by the Executive Board of the  
24 Legislative Council, including the chairperson of the Judiciary Committee  
25 of the Legislature who shall serve as chairperson of the special  
26 legislative committee.

27 (4) ~~(5)~~ The Committee on Justice Reinvestment Oversight shall  
28 monitor and guide analysis and policy development in all aspects of the  
29 criminal justice system in Nebraska within the scope of the justice  
30 reinvestment initiative, including tracking implementation of evidence-  
31 based strategies as established in Laws 2015, LB605, and reviewing

1 policies to improve public safety, reduce recidivism, and reduce spending  
2 on corrections in Nebraska. With assistance from the contractor described  
3 in subsection (5) of this section ~~Council of State Governments Justice~~  
4 ~~Center~~, the committee shall monitor performance and measure outcomes by  
5 collecting data from counties and relevant state agencies for analysis  
6 and reporting.

7 (5) Beginning July 1, 2023, the committee shall contract with an  
8 academic institution located within Nebraska to assist with a data-driven  
9 approach to reduce correctional spending and reinvest savings in  
10 strategies that can decrease recidivism and increase public safety. This  
11 shall include, but not be limited to, development of a correctional  
12 forecasting tool with the ability to monitor trends and forecast future  
13 correctional populations. The tool will be utilized by the committee to  
14 project the impacts of proposed changes to sentencing, programming,  
15 community supervision, or other aspects of the criminal justice system,  
16 including assisting in the development of fiscal notes for proposed  
17 legislation.

18 (6) The committee shall prepare and submit an annual report of its  
19 activities and findings and may make recommendations to improve any  
20 aspect of the criminal justice system. The committee shall deliver the  
21 report to the Governor, the Clerk of the Legislature, and the Chief  
22 Justice by September 1 of each year. The report to the clerk shall be  
23 delivered electronically.

24 Sec. 2. The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal  
25 Justice, Department of Correctional Services, Office of Probation  
26 Administration, and Board of Parole shall provide the contractor  
27 described in subsection (5) of section 50-434 with access to all data  
28 necessary to carry out the provisions of that section. The contractor  
29 shall maintain the same levels of confidentiality and data security  
30 protections required of agency staff.

31 Sec. 3. Original section 50-434, Reissue Revised Statutes of

1 Nebraska, is repealed.

2       Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when  
3 passed and approved according to law.