

AMENDMENTS TO LB962

Introduced by Judiciary.

1           1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new  
2 sections:

3           **Section 1.** Sections 1 to 8 of this act shall be known and may be  
4 cited as the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act.

5           **Sec. 2.** For purposes of the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support  
6 Act:

7           (1) Community-based provider means a nonprofit or local governmental  
8 entity contracting with the Department of Health and Human Services, the  
9 Office of Juvenile Services, or the Office of Probation Administration to  
10 deliver services for youth transitioning from out-of-home placements or  
11 probation supervision, including mentoring and employment support;

12           (2) Credible messenger means an individual who has lived experience  
13 in the justice or foster care system and who is trained in mentorship and  
14 restorative justice practices;

15           (3) Facility means a juvenile detention facility, group home,  
16 residential treatment facility, or a youth rehabilitation and treatment  
17 center;

18           (4) Individualized employment plan means a customized career plan  
19 that:

20           (a) Is developed collaboratively by a counselor employed by the  
21 Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education,  
22 the youth, and a representative of a facility or the Office of Probation  
23 Administration, as appropriate; and

24           (b) Identifies employment, credentialing, and job placement steps  
25 for the youth;

26           (5) Transition plan means a written, individualized plan developed  
27 as described in section 5 of this act; and

1       (6) Youth means any individual under nineteen years of age who is  
2 exiting or transitioning from an out-of-home placement, including at a  
3 facility or residential treatment program, or who is transitioning from  
4 probation supervision.

5       **Sec. 3.** (1) The purpose of the Youth Reentry and Transitional  
6 Support Act is to ensure youth in out-of-home placements receive  
7 essential support for successful transition back into their homes and  
8 communities.

9       (2) The Legislature finds that:

10       (a) Youth and families require intensive support to assist in  
11 planning, supervision, and support during the transition phase; and

12       (b) Planning for discharge upon entry to a facility is the best  
13 practice to ensure a successful re-entry.

14       **Sec. 4.** The Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of  
15 Juvenile Services, the Office of Probation Administration, and the  
16 Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education  
17 shall collaboratively establish the Youth Reentry and Transitional  
18 Support Program. The program shall provide for the following for each  
19 youth:

20       (1) Completion of a transition plan;

21       (2) Regular reviews of each youth's transition plan. These reviews  
22 shall be accomplished by a representative of the facility or the Office  
23 of Probation Administration, as appropriate, and shall occur weekly for  
24 detention or other short-term placements and monthly for all other  
25 placements, including placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment  
26 center; and

27       (3) Supervision following re-entry by the Department of Health and  
28 Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Services, or the Office of  
29 Probation Administration, as appropriate, to ensure a successful  
30 transition.

31       **Sec. 5.** (1) A transition plan shall be developed for each youth

1 upon admission to a facility or upon beginning another out-of-home  
2 placement or probation supervision.

3 (2) The transition plan shall be developed using validated  
4 assessment instruments, screenings, and evaluations. The transition plan  
5 shall be developed collaboratively with involvement from the youth, the  
6 youth's family or guardian, and facility representatives and the  
7 Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Services,  
8 or the Office of Probation Administration, as appropriate. When possible,  
9 development of the plan should include coordinating with local family  
10 resource centers, community-based providers, or other community resources  
11 in order to support the youth and the youth's family and identify long-  
12 term supports.

13 (3) A transition plan shall include provisions regarding:

14 (a) Treatment services, including ensuring continuity of behavioral  
15 health, medical, and medicaid services;

16 (b) Enrolling eligible youth in programs and services offered by the  
17 Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education;

18 (c) Developing an individualized employment plan identifying career  
19 and training pathways for youth obtaining employment upon reentry;

20 (d) Services from community-based providers, including credible  
21 messenger mentoring or in-home supportive or behavioral health services;

22 (e) Coordinating with family resource centers to align family and  
23 community support;

24 (f) A housing stabilization strategy and safe placement;

25 (g) A school reentry or educational advancement plan;

26 (h) Assisting youth in applying for medicaid benefits and  
27 maintaining eligibility;

28 (i) Plans and processes to obtain identification documents and  
29 public benefits; and

30 (j) Family engagement and restorative justice objectives consistent  
31 with reforms enacted in Laws 2025, LB50.

1       (4) During the first ninety days following a youth's re-entry, a  
2 family team meeting shall be held at least once every thirty days. Such  
3 meeting shall include the youth and the youth's family or guardian and  
4 the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Juvenile  
5 Services, or the Office of Probation Administration, as appropriate.

6       (5) Youth who are eligible for participation in the bridge to  
7 independence program as provided in the Young Adult Bridge to  
8 Independence Act shall be referred to that program. Services under the  
9 Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act shall not duplicate services  
10 available under the bridge to independence program.

11       **Sec. 6.** (1) Each participating agency shall implement the Youth  
12 Reentry and Transitional Support Act within its existing duties, staff,  
13 and appropriations.

14       (2) The Department of Health and Human Services and Office of  
15 Juvenile Services shall align existing case management, child welfare,  
16 and medicaid resources to support services under the act.

17       (3) The Office of Probation Administration shall integrate  
18 transition planning into probation supervision and existing community-  
19 based programs.

20       (4) The Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department  
21 of Education shall deliver vocational rehabilitation and employment  
22 services through existing federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity  
23 Act and pre-employment transition services funding.

24       (5) The Department of Labor may assist with workforce placement and  
25 apprenticeships using existing programs.

26       (6) Community-based organizations may partner with participating  
27 agencies through existing grants, contracts, or volunteer programs  
28 without additional state appropriations.

29       (7) No new General Fund appropriation is authorized under the Youth  
30 Reentry and Transitional Support Act. All participating agencies shall  
31 absorb any costs incurred using current appropriations or available

1 federal, philanthropic, or reallocated funds.

2 **Sec. 7.** Nothing in the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act  
3 shall be construed to require the Office of Probation Administration to  
4 provide services to a youth after a term of probation has ended.

5 **Sec. 8.** The Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of  
6 Juvenile Services, the Office of Probation Administration, the Division  
7 of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education, and the  
8 Department of Labor shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations that  
9 provide for:

10 (1) Defining joint responsibilities in implementing the Youth  
11 Reentry and Transitional Support Act; and

12 (2) Setting minimum training standards for credible messengers and  
13 staff responsible for implementing the Youth Reentry and Transitional  
14 Support Act.

15 **Sec. 9.** This act becomes operative on December 1, 2026.