

E AND R AMENDMENTS TO LB 962

Introduced by Guereca, 7, Chairman Enrollment and Review

1 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments thereto and
2 insert the following new 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 congregate care placements
11 or 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 an age-appropriate,
19 customized career plan 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 a congregate care 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 congregate care 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.** (1)(a) The Department of Health and Human Services, the
15 Office of Juvenile Services, the Office of Probation Administration, and
16 the Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of
17 Education shall collaboratively establish the Youth Reentry and
18 Transitional Support Program.

19 (b) The Department of Health and Human Services shall be responsible
20 for supervision and programming for youth placed in the care, custody,
21 and control of the department by court order pursuant to the Nebraska
22 Juvenile Code. The Office of Probation Administration shall be
23 responsible for supervision and programming for youth placed under
24 probation supervision by court order pursuant to the Nebraska Juvenile
25 Code.

26 (2) The Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Program shall provide
27 for the following for each youth:

28 (a) Completion of a transition plan;

29 (b) Regular reviews of each youth's transition plan. These reviews
30 shall be accomplished by a representative of the facility or the Office
31 of Probation Administration, as appropriate, and shall occur weekly for

1 detention or other short-term placements and monthly for all other
2 placements, including placement at a youth rehabilitation and treatment
3 center; and

4 (c) Supervision following re-entry by the Department of Health and
5 Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Services, or the Office of
6 Probation Administration, as appropriate, to ensure a successful
7 transition.

8 **Sec. 5.** (1) A transition plan shall be developed for each youth
9 upon admission to a facility or admission to another congregate care
10 placement or probation supervision.

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

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

22 (a) Treatment services, including continuity of behavioral health,
23 medical, and medicaid services;

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

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

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

30 (e) Coordinating with family resource centers to align family and
31 community support;

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

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

3 (h) Assisting youth in applying for medicaid benefits and
4 maintaining eligibility;

5 (i) Plans and processes to obtain identification documents and
6 public benefits; and

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

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

14 (5) Youth who are eligible for participation in the bridge to
15 independence program as provided in the Young Adult Bridge to
16 Independence Act shall be referred to that program. Services under the
17 Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act shall not duplicate services
18 available under the bridge to independence program.

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

22 (2) The Department of Health and Human Services and Office of
23 Juvenile Services shall integrate transition planning into its existing
24 case management, child welfare, and medicaid resources to support
25 services under the act.

26 (3) The Office of Probation Administration shall integrate
27 transition planning into probation supervision and existing community-
28 based programs.

29 (4) The Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department
30 of Education shall deliver vocational rehabilitation and employment
31 services through existing federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity

1 Act and pre-employment transition services funding.

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

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

7 (7) No new General Fund appropriation is authorized under the Youth
8 Reentry and Transitional Support Act. All participating agencies shall
9 absorb any costs incurred using current appropriations or available
10 federal, philanthropic, or reallocated funds.

11 **Sec. 7.** Nothing in the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act
12 shall be construed to require:

13 (1) The Office of Probation Administration to provide services to a
14 youth after a term of probation has ended; or

15 (2) The Department of Health and Human Services or Office of
16 Juvenile Services to provide services to a youth after the youth has left
17 the care, custody, and control of the department.

18 **Sec. 8.** The Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of
19 Juvenile Services, the Office of Probation Administration, the Division
20 of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education, and the
21 Department of Labor may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations that
22 provide for:

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

25 (2) Setting minimum training standards for credible messengers and
26 staff responsible for implementing the Youth Reentry and Transitional
27 Support Act.

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

29 2. On page 1, strike beginning with "public" in line 1 through line
30 3 and insert "public health and welfare; to adopt the Youth Reentry and
31 Transitional Support Act; and to provide an operative date."