

**ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2026**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB962**

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**Hearing Date:** Friday February 20, 2026  
**Committee On:** Judiciary  
**Introducer:** McKinney  
**One Liner:** Adopt the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

**Aye:** 8 Senators Bosn, DeBoer, Hallstrom, Holdcroft, McKinney, Rountree,  
Storer, Storm

**Nay:**

**Absent:**

**Present Not Voting:**

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**Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Michael Lee Jr. for Senator McKinney  
Chloe Fowler  
Jason Witmer  
Katie Nungesser  
Connor Herbert

**Representing:**

Opening Presenter  
Nebraska Children's Commission  
ACLU of Nebraska  
Voices for Children in Nebraska  
Nebraska Commission on African American Affairs

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

Gene Cotter  
Alyssa Bish

**Representing:**

Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation  
Department of Health & Human Services

\* ADA Accommodation Written Testimony

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 962 adopts the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act. The bill establishes a coordinated, multi-agency reentry program for individuals under the age of 21 who are leaving juvenile detention, residential placements, or probation supervision.

The program focuses on continuity of services and stabilization during the first year after release. Participating agencies must jointly develop transition plans addressing housing, education, employment, behavioral health, and family engagement. The bill also requires mentoring, workforce development planning, and case management through an assigned aftercare coordinator.



The bill does not create new appropriations. Instead, agencies must implement the program using existing staff, funding streams, and federal or private resources. The bill also requires annual reporting to the Legislature regarding outcomes and recidivism-related savings.

Section-by-Section Summary:

Section 1: Titles sections 1 to 6 of the bill as the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act (Act).

Section 2: Defines key terms for purposes of the Act.

Section 3: Requires the Department of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Office of Juvenile Services, the Office Probation Administration, and the Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education, to create the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Program. For each youth, the program must provide the following: Begin transition and employment planning within 30 days after a youth's intake or adjudication; assign an aftercare coordinator to each eligible youth; require the Office of Probation Administration to collaborate with juvenile detention facility staff to develop and execute transition plans for any youth under probation supervision; provide 12 months of post-release aftercare and coaching; maintain behavioral health and Medicaid continuity; enroll youth in programs and services offered by the Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education; develop an individualized employment plan; provide credible-messenger mentoring; and coordinate family and community supports.

Transition plans must include housing stabilization strategy and safe placement, an education reentry or advancement plan, continuity of behavioral health and Medicaid services, identification documents and public benefits, family engagement and restorative justice goals, and monthly coordination meetings for first ninety days of post-release.

Section 4: Requires participating agencies to implement the Act within existing duties and appropriations. The Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Juvenile Services must align existing case management, child welfare, and Medicaid resources to support services under the Act. The Office of Probation Administration must integrate transition planning into probation supervision and community programs. The Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education must deliver vocational rehabilitation and employment services through existing federal workforce funding. The Department of Labor may assist with workforce placement and apprenticeships through existing programs. Community organizations may partner with agencies through existing grants, contracts, or volunteer programs. This section also provides that no new General Fund appropriation is authorized under the Act and that agencies will absorb any costs using existing appropriations or available federal, philanthropic, or reallocated funds.

Section 5: Requires the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Office of Juvenile Services, the Office Probation Administration, and the Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education, to submit an annual report to the Judiciary, Education, and Health and Human Services Committees detailing the number of youth served; education, housing, and employment outcomes; estimated savings from reduced recidivism; and federal or private funding leveraged.

Section 6: Participating agencies must adopt rules and regulations addressing caseload limits (1 coordinator per 15 youth); interagency responsibilities; training standards for mentors and staff; housing and employment support expenditures; coordination with schools, courts, and service providers; and tracking employment and education outcomes at 3, 6, 9, and 12 months.

Section 7: Operative date of July 1, 2026.



## Section 8: Emergency Clause.

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### **Explanation of amendments:**

The committee amendment (AM 2683) strikes and replaces the original sections. The amendment restructures the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act to narrow the eligible population and simplify the program, focusing on transition planning and coordination using existing agency staff and resources.

### Section-by-Section Summary

Section 1: Titles sections 1 to 8 of the bill as the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Act (Act).

Section 2: Defines key terms for purposes of the Act. As amended, this section removes “aftercare coordinator” as a defined term; changes the definition of “individualized employment plan” from a customized career plan that is developed “collaboratively” by a counselor employed by the Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education, the youth, and a representative of a facility or the Office of Probation Administration to one that is developed “jointly” by those parties; and redefines “transition plan” as a written, individualized plan developed as described in section 5 of the bill.

Section 3: Contains the purpose of the Act and legislative findings.

Section 4: Directs the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Services, the Office Probation Administration, and the Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education to collaboratively establish the Youth Reentry and Transitional Support Program to provide for each youth the completion of a transition plan, regular reviews of each youth’s transition plan, and supervision following re-entry by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Services, the Office Probation Administration, and the Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education.

Section 5: Provides that a transition plan shall be developed for each youth upon admission to a facility or upon beginning another out-of-home placement or probation supervision. This section also provides the standards to be used in developing a transition plan, provides required contents for a transition plan, requires a family team meeting at least once every thirty days during the first ninety days following a youth’s re-entry, and requires that youth who are eligible for participation in the bridge to independence program as provided in the Young Adult Bridge to Independence Act shall be referred to that program.

Section 6: This is section 4 in the introduced bill and is unchanged by AM 2683. It requires participating agencies to implement the Act within existing duties and appropriations. The Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Juvenile Services must align existing case management, child welfare, and Medicaid resources to support services under the Act. The Office of Probation Administration must integrate transition planning into probation supervision and community programs. The Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education must deliver vocational rehabilitation and employment services through existing federal workforce funding. The Department of Labor may assist with workforce placement and apprenticeships through existing programs. Community organizations may partner with agencies through existing grants, contracts, or volunteer programs. This section also provides that no new General Fund appropriation is authorized under the Act and that agencies will absorb any costs using existing appropriations or available federal, philanthropic, or reallocated funds.

Section 7: Provides that nothing in the Act requires the Office of Probation Administration to provide services to a youth after the youth’s term of probation has ended.



Section 8: Directs the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Juvenile Services, the Office Probation Administration, the Division of Rehabilitation Services of the State Department of Education, and the Department of Labor to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations that provide for defining joint responsibility in implementing the Act, and setting minimum training standards for credible messengers and staff responsible for implementing the Act.

Section 9: Operative date of December 1, 2026.

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Carolyn Bosn, Chairperson

