

Summary of LB 907

Sections 1-11 Legal Education for Public Service and Rural Practice Loan Repayment Assistance Act

- Allows for attorneys who work in public legal services work or in less populated areas of Nebraska loan repayment assistance (vs. loan forgiveness as previously written)
- Expands the definition of the student role on the Public Service and Rural Practice Loan Repayment Assistance Board
- Requires a three year commitment to be eligible for repayment
- Requires the Commission on Public Advocacy to determine designated shortage areas

Section 11 Intended to reduce correctional spending and provide reinvestment strategies

- Creates the Nebraska Justice Reinvestment Working Group to work with the Council of State Government Justice Center
- Defines membership to the group: Governor, Speaker of Legislature and Chief Justice as co-chairs
 - 4 selected by Governor
 - 4 selected by Chief Justice
 - 4 selected by the Speaker of the Legislature
 - 4 selected by Governor to represent local governments
- Requires a final report and recommendation by September 1, 2015
- **Effective 4/16/2014**

Section 12 Intended to promote employment opportunities

- Removes the requirement to disclose criminal record information at the time of an employment application
- Does not limit an employer's ability to conduct background checks after determining the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications
- Outlines exceptions: i.e. Law Enforcement

Section 13 Requires the Department of Correctional Services with the Board of Parole to create a reentry program

- The intent is to improve the transition of inmates back into the community
- Allows for the creation of a reentry program administrator

Section 14 Creates the Vocational and Life Skills Program within the Department of Correctional Services

- Creates funding to aid in the establishment of community-based vocational training and Life skills training for adults to include individuals who are incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, on parole or probation (\$3.5 million available)
- Provides grants to community based organizations, community colleges, federally or state recognized Indian tribes or non-profits to provide vocational and life skill training
- Requires the Department of Correctional Services to promulgate rules

Section 15 Changes provisions relating to parolees

- Requires parole officers to assist a parolee when transitioning from prison with needed services
- Allows for GPS in the supervision of parolees
- Requires a reentry plan is completed when the offender has served 80% of their sentence
- Expands a parole officer authority to impose graduated sanctions (Now parallels what is already in statute for probation officers)
- Requires the Board of Parole to promulgate rules pertaining to technical violations

Section 19 (funding)

- Provides for \$5 million to expand mental health services with a priority around SSAS and Problem-Solving Courts
 - This will expand the Fee for Service Voucher Program to cover mental health services for adults
 - The development and rollout of the expanded voucher services are underdevelopment
- Provides \$3.8 million for the expansion of Reporting Centers and SSAS
 - Will include 3 additional reporting centers
 - Grand Island, Columbus and either Norfolk/North Platte/Fremont
 - Will include the addition of 16 SSAS officers
 - Allocated to existing and new sites
- Provides \$5 million to the Department of Correctional Services to carry out the Vocational and Life Skills Program
- Provides \$500,000 toward the Legal Education for Public Services and Rural Practice Loan Repayment Assistance fund
- Provides \$200,000 to the Consortium for Crime and Justice research at the University of Nebraska at Omaha to assist the Legislature in research, evaluation and policymaking