



2025 ASSEMBLY BILL 297

May 30, 2025 - Introduced by Representatives FRANKLIN, MURSAU, KAUFERT, O'CONNOR, PENTERMAN and KNODL, cosponsored by Senators WIMBERGER and CABRAL-GUEVARA. Referred to Committee on Corrections.

- 1 **AN ACT** *to create* 301.096 of the statutes; **relating to:** performance grants
2 based on improving employment rates for individuals on probation, parole, or
3 extended supervision.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Corrections to award performance grants to adult probation and parole offices based on increases in employment rates for individuals on probation, parole, or extended supervision in the regions the offices serve.

The bill provides a formula to determine the amount of funds each adult probation and parole office is eligible to receive under this performance grant program. Under the formula, DOC must calculate a baseline employment rate for individuals on probation, parole, or extended supervision who reside in the region the office serves by averaging the annual employment rate for those individuals in fiscal years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24. Then, on July 1 of each fiscal year, DOC must calculate the employment rate for individuals on probation, parole, or extended supervision who reside in the region the office serves for the fiscal year that just ended. DOC must subtract the baseline employment rate from the employment rate for the fiscal year that just ended. If the difference is negative, the office is not eligible for a performance grant in the fiscal year that just began. If the difference is positive, the office is eligible for a performance grant in the fiscal year

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that just began that is equal to that difference multiplied by the number of individuals on probation, parole, or extended supervision who reside in the region the office serves, multiplied again by \$2,500. Under the bill, an office that receives a grant must use the funds to provide bonuses for employees of the regional office.

The bill requires DOC to develop and publish outcome-based measures for each region such as the employment rate and the average length of employment for individuals on probation, parole, or extended supervision; the percentage and employment status of individuals on probation, parole, or extended supervision who are convicted of a crime while on the supervised status; the number and employment status of individuals on probation, parole, or extended supervision who complete their period of supervised status; the programs for individuals on probation, parole, or extended supervision that were created or eliminated; and an estimate of savings to the state as a result of reduced correctional costs due to lower crime rates among individuals on probation, parole, or extended supervision.

The bill requires DOC to work with the offices to prepare annual reports for the legislature. The reports must be available to the public and must include information about the effectiveness of the performance grants based on outcome-based measures and recommendations regarding resource allocations or collaboration with other state, regional, or local entities or other regions for improvements to the performance grant program.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 301.096 of the statutes is created to read:

2 **301.096 Improving community supervision outcomes; employment.**

3 **(1) DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

4 (a) “Baseline employment rate” means the average of the employment rates
5 for the fiscal years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24.

6 (b) “Documentation of wage-earning hours” means employment records, pay
7 stubs, employment letters, contracts, or similarly reliable methods of employment
8 verification, as determined by the department.

9 (c) “Eligible employment” means an occupation or combination of occupations

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1 for which an individual can provide documentation of wage-earning hours in the
2 amount of at least 130 hours in a 30-day period.

3 (d) "Employment rate" means the proportion of individuals who held eligible
4 employment for at least 9 months if at least part of the 9 months was in a given
5 fiscal year.

6 (e) "Evidence-based practices" means supervision policies, procedures,
7 programs, and technology demonstrated by scientific research to reduce recidivism
8 among individuals on probation, parole, or extended supervision.

9 (f) "Marginal cost of incarceration" means the sum of all short-term variable
10 costs associated with incarcerating an individual in a state facility. "Marginal cost
11 of incarceration" includes only correctional costs that marginally change in
12 proportion to the inmate population of a facility.

13 (g) "Region" means each jurisdiction that is covered by a regional office.

14 (h) "Regional office" means an adult probation and parole office that
15 supervises individuals who reside under the office's jurisdiction who are on
16 probation, parole, or extended supervision.

17 (2) GRANTS. The department shall award grants to regional offices for
18 improving community supervision outcomes. The amount that each regional office
19 receives is based on the calculations under sub. (7).

20 (3) ALLOCATION OF GRANT MONEYS RECEIVED. A regional office shall use the
21 funds awarded under this section to provide bonuses for employees of the regional
22 office.

23 (4) OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING. (a) The department shall provide oversight

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1 of the grant moneys awarded to ensure that the disbursed funds are being used in
2 accordance with the grant program under this section. The department shall
3 maintain an accounting of all moneys awarded under this section.

4 (b) Beginning no later than the first day of the 19th month beginning after the
5 effective date of this paragraph [LRB inserts date], and on each July 1
6 thereafter, the department shall work with regional offices to prepare and submit
7 to the joint committee on finance a comprehensive, publicly available report on the
8 implementation of the grant program under this section. The report shall include
9 at the minimum all the following information:

10 1. The effectiveness of the grant payments based on the reports of outcome-
11 based measures under sub. (5).

12 2. Any recommendations regarding resource allocations or additional
13 collaboration with other state, regional, or local entities or other regions for
14 improvements to the grant program under this section.

15 (5) OUTCOME-BASED MEASURES. The department shall develop, track, and, in
16 a publicly available report, publish the outcome-based measures for each fiscal
17 year, including all of the following:

18 (a) The employment rate and average length of employment for individuals on
19 probation, parole, or extended supervision in each region and statewide.

20 (b) The percentage of individuals on probation, parole, or extended
21 supervision who are convicted of a new crime while on that supervised status for
22 each region and statewide and whether the individuals who are convicted are
23 employed or not.

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1 (c) The number and percentage of individuals on probation, parole, or
2 extended supervision who successfully complete their period of supervised status
3 for each region and statewide and whether the individuals who complete their
4 period are employed or not.

5 (d) The number and types of programs for individuals on probation, parole, or
6 extended supervision that were created, modified, replaced, or eliminated in each
7 region.

8 (e) An estimate of any savings to the state as a result of reduced correctional
9 costs due to lower crime rates among individuals on probation, parole, or extended
10 supervision, using the marginal cost of incarceration and the number of individuals
11 convicted of a new crime while on supervised status.

12 **(6) DATA COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.** (a) The department shall calculate for
13 each region and statewide the baseline employment rates for individuals on
14 probation, for individuals on parole, and for individuals on extended supervision.

15 (b) On July 1 of each fiscal year, the department shall calculate for each region
16 and statewide the employment rates for the preceding fiscal year for individuals on
17 probation, for individuals on parole, and for individuals on extended supervision.

18 **(7) DISTRIBUTING INCENTIVE GRANTS FOR PERFORMANCE.** The department
19 shall calculate the amount that each regional office is eligible to receive in the
20 current fiscal year as a grant under this section for increasing probation, parole,
21 and extended supervision employment rates for its region in the immediate past
22 fiscal year as follows:

23 (a) Add the employment rates for individuals on probation, individuals on

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1 parole, and individuals on extended supervision for the region as determined under
2 sub. (6) (b).

3 (b) Subtract from the sum under par. (a) the sum of the baseline employment
4 rates for the region for individuals on probation, individuals on parole, and
5 individuals on extended supervision determined under sub. (6) (a).

6 (c) 1. If the difference determined under par. (b) is positive, multiply the
7 difference by the total number of individuals on probation, parole, and extended
8 supervision in the region. Multiply that product by \$2,500 to determine the amount
9 that the regional office is eligible to receive under this section in the current fiscal
10 year.

11 2. If the difference determined under par. (b) is negative, the regional office is
12 not eligible for a grant under this section in the current fiscal year.

13 (d) If the moneys available for grants under this section in a fiscal year are
14 insufficient to pay all amounts determined under par. (c) 1., the department shall
15 establish a system to prorate the grants.

16 (e) If the department determines that the data required under sub. (6) are not
17 of sufficient quality or are not the correct type, the department shall use the best
18 available data to estimate probation, parole, and extended supervision employment
19 rates using a method that is as consistent with that described in sub. (6) as is
20 reasonably possible.

21 (f) Notwithstanding par. (c) 1., no regional office may be awarded a grant

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1 under this section if, in the previous fiscal year, its region had an increase in
2 revocations based on the commission of new crimes.

3 (END)