



State of Wisconsin  
2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

LRB-6560/P5  
MJW:emw&wlj

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION**

1     **AN ACT to create** 20.410 (1) (df) and 301.098 of the statutes; **relating to:** creating  
2             a program to establish and operate community reentry centers and making an  
3             appropriation.

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill is explained in the NOTES provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the bill.

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

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

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This bill was prepared for the Legislative Council Study Committee on Increasing Offender Employment Opportunities. The bill requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to create a community reentry center program and contract with nonprofit organizations to operate these centers. A community reentry center is a community site offering individuals who are being released from a state correctional institution initial points of contact for each of the following: health services, identification services, financial services, housing services, employment services, education services, and supervision services.

To be eligible for a DOC contract, a nonprofit organization must operate the community reentry center in a location easily accessible by public transportation and by the population it serves, and provide initial points of contact for all the services listed



“community reentry center” in this way, the bill requires all of these services to be provided in order to qualify to contract with DOC.

1           (b) “Nonprofit organization” means an organization described in section 501 (c)  
2 of the Internal Revenue Code that is exempt from federal income tax under section  
3 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

4           **(2)** The department shall create a community reentry center program. Under  
5 the program, the department shall contract with nonprofit organizations to establish  
6 and operate community reentry centers.

NOTE: The bill requires DOC to contract with multiple nonprofit organizations to create community reentry centers, but does not dictate where the centers must be located within the state.

7           **(3)** To receive a contract under sub. (2), a nonprofit organization shall operate  
8 a community reentry center in a location that is easily accessible by the population  
9 served and accessible by public transportation, if available, that provides, at a  
10 minimum, all of the following initial points of contact relating to the following  
11 services for individuals at the time of release from a state correctional institution  
12 upon completion of his or her sentence or to parole or extended supervision:

NOTE: The bill requires a nonprofit organization to provide “initial points of contact relating to” specific health, identification, financial, housing, employment, education, and supervision services before it may contract with DOC.

13           (a) Health: assistance in identifying and accessing appropriate health care  
14 services and mental health services based on the individual’s needs.

15           (b) Identification: assistance in obtaining identification documents such as the  
16 individual’s birth certificate, social security card, state identification card, or driver’s  
17 license, if eligible, including any necessary forms and instructions.

18           (c) Financial: assistance in creating a bank account, including obtaining a debit  
19 card at the time of the individual’s initial contact with the community reentry center.

1 (d) Housing: assistance in obtaining access to emergency housing options for  
2 homeless individuals and contacting landlords that rent to formerly incarcerated  
3 individuals.

4 (e) Employment: assistance in creating a resume, electronically submitting the  
5 resume where needed, and contacting relevant employment agencies to secure  
6 employment.

7 (f) Education: assistance in identifying whether and how to proceed with the  
8 next level of education or vocational training the individual may want or need.

9 (g) Supervision: a secured office space for department supervision agents to  
10 facilitate the explanation and signing of the individual's rules and the assignment  
11 of the individual to his or her department supervision agent.

12 (4) The department and the nonprofit organization shall determine, by  
13 agreement, when department supervision agents will be present on site, and the  
14 department shall provide supervision agents pursuant to the agreement to provide  
15 supervision services to any community reentry center operated under sub. (3).

NOTE: The bill requires DOC to provide agents at the community reentry center site, but does not specify any minimum amount of time they must be present.

16 (5) (a) In this subsection, "recidivism" means any of the following:

17 1. A return to prison upon revocation of extended supervision, parole, or  
18 probation.

19 2. A conviction for a crime that was committed within 3 years of release from  
20 confinement.

21 (b) By January 1, 2027, and biennially thereafter, the department shall submit  
22 to the governor and to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution  
23 to the appropriate standing committees under s. 13.172 (3) a comprehensive report

1 that analyzes the effectiveness of the program under this section. The report shall  
2 include data assessing the impact of the program on recidivism rates in the area  
3 served by contract recipients and a cost-benefit analysis of the program.

NOTE: The bill requires DOC to report on how the community reentry center sites have impacted recidivism and conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the program. The initial report is not due until 2027, which allows for several years of recidivism data to be collected prior to the initial report.

4 **SECTION 4. Effective date.**

5 (1) This act takes effect on the day after publication, or on the 2nd day after  
6 publication of the 2023 biennial budget act, whichever is later.

7 (END)