

THE SECOND CHANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1: Short Title

This section designates the title of the bill as the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013.

Section 2: Improvements to Existing Programs

This section consolidates and improves the grant programs authorized by the Second Chance Act, and reauthorizes them at reduced levels to better reflect current appropriations.

a. Reauthorization of the Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Demonstration Projects.

This subsection reauthorizes the Adult and Juvenile Offender State and Local Reentry Demonstration Projects Grant Program and breaks it into a two parts so that grant money can be awarded separately for planning and for implementation of the reentry projects. Currently, grantees receive one grant for both planning and implementation, irrespective of whether the planning process is successful. This subsection also makes several improvements to the program structure by giving priority consideration to those applicants who work with a local evaluator to set meaningful recidivism goals. This section also bolsters support for grantees with programs that target offenders with histories of homelessness, substance abuse, or mental illness. Finally, it allows funding under this section to be used for reentry courts and includes a geographic diversity provision to ensure that underserved populations will benefit from this program.

b. Grants for Family-Based Substance Abuse Treatment

This subsection reauthorizes the grants for Family-Based Substance Abuse Treatment through 2018 at existing levels. It also expands the eligible grantees to include nonprofit organizations and grants priority consideration to those nonprofit organizations with a demonstrated relationship to State and local criminal justice agencies.

c. Grant Program to Evaluate and Improve Educational Methods at Prisons, Jails and Juvenile Facilities

This subsection shifts existing funding from research to the implementation of best practices in prison education programs. It directs the Attorney General to develop best practices for prison and jail educational methods after taking into consideration the research authorized by the Second Chance Act.

d. Careers Training Demonstration Grants

This subsection reauthorizes the Technology Careers Training Demonstration Program at reduced levels, and expands the eligible applicant pool to include nonprofit organizations. It opens the program to non-technology career training, as well. It grants priority consideration to applicants that conduct individualized post-release employment planning, demonstrate connections to employers within the local community, or track and monitor employment outcomes.

e. Offender Reentry Substance Abuse and Criminal Justice Collaboration Program

This subsection reauthorizes the Offender Reentry Substance Abuse and Criminal Justice Collaboration Program at existing levels.

f. Community-Based Mentoring and Transitional Service Grants to Nonprofit Organizations

This subsection renames the mentoring grants program and broadens its scope to include transitional services to assist in the reintegration of offenders into the community. It defines transitional services, clarifies that exonerees are eligible for participation under this Act, and authorizes the grants at existing levels.

Section 3: Audit and Accountability of Grantees

This section bolsters the accountability of grantees. It requires periodic grantee audits, and ensures that applicants with unresolved audits cannot receive Second Chance Act funding.

Section 4: Federal Reentry Improvements

This section improves existing federal reentry policy, consolidates federal reentry programs, and reauthorizes the funding devoted to federal reentry at existing levels.

The Responsible Reintegration of Offenders Program, a Study on Effectiveness of Depot Naltrexone for Heroin Addiction, and the Federal Satellite Tracking and Reentry Training Program are repealed.

The current Elderly and Family Reunification for Certain Nonviolent Offenders Pilot Program is extended and improved by lowering the age of eligibility to 60 years and requiring that in order to be eligible inmates must have served at least 10 years or two-thirds of their sentence.

A new program, the Partnerships to Expand Access to Reentry Programs Proven to Reduce Recidivism, is added. This will allow certain faith-based and community-based nonprofit organizations to partner with local and federal prisons to provide mentoring or other programming demonstrated to reduce recidivism.

Finally, the existing reporting requirements on the Bureau of Prison's (BOP) use of community corrections facilities are enhanced.

Section 5: Task Force on Federal Programs and Activities Relating to Reentry of Offenders

This section codifies the existing task force on federal reentry programs. This task force, led by the Attorney General, requires the Department of Justice, in consultation the heads of other appropriate federal agencies, to collaborate with service providers, nonprofit organizations, State, tribal, and local governments to establish a task force to examine activities related to offender reentry. The task force will work to eliminate program duplication; improve communication, collaboration, and coordination to promote increased efficiency; develop interagency and intergovernmental programs to improve the outcomes of reentering offenders; and collaborate with the National Adult and Juvenile Offender Reentry Resources Center to identify successful programs and best practices that can be more broadly replicated.