



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 304**

LCO No. 1767

\* \_\_\_\_\_SB00304KIDJUD030508\_\_\_\_\_\*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Department of  
2 Correction shall create, within available appropriations, a position  
3 within the department to focus on issues concerning children with  
4 incarcerated parents. The person holding the position shall report  
5 directly to the Commissioner of Correction and the director of  
6 programs and treatment, and shall be responsible for: (1) Strategic  
7 planning, including developing short and long-term goals for  
8 providing services to children of incarcerated parents; (2) assisting  
9 with family reunification through re-entry planning and community  
10 referrals; (3) acting as a liaison between the correctional facility and  
11 community providers to ensure continuity of care for discharging  
12 offenders and their children; (4) gathering and evaluating data on the  
13 children and families of offenders to determine the impact of services  
14 on recidivism and intergenerational incarceration; (5) identifying  
15 agency training needs to increase staff awareness and services for  
16 children and offenders; and (6) participating in a collaborative  
17 oversight committee to guide services for children of incarcerated  
18 parents.

19       Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Department of  
20 Correction shall establish, within available appropriations, a grant  
21 program to address issues concerning incarcerated parents. The  
22 program shall: (1) Provide early intervention services to break the cycle  
23 of crime; (2) strengthen families' ability to care for children; (3) help  
24 families maintain ties during incarceration; and (4) promote family  
25 reunification upon release.

26       (b) The department shall provide grants to entities offering services  
27 to families with incarcerated parents to: (1) Address the needs of  
28 incarcerated parents and their families in a cohesive manner that seeks  
29 to break the cycle of incarceration; (2) promote the positive  
30 development of children; (3) prevent the children of incarcerated  
31 parents from joining gangs; and (4) engage parents and caregivers in  
32 competent parenting and educational activities. The services shall  
33 focus on the dynamics of the family unit and the significant role that  
34 family relationships play in helping offenders rebuild their lives. Such  
35 services will be linked to both community agency and criminal justice  
36 programs.

37       (c) The Commissioner of Correction shall report, in accordance with  
38 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of  
39 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
40 judiciary and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, and to  
41 the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
42 matters relating to children by July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter on  
43 the progress of the grant program in reaching its goals.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

**KID**

*Joint Favorable C/R*

**JUD**