

HOUSE BILL 160

By Johnson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40
and Title 41, relative to pilot programs providing
services to inmates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 4, is amended by adding
the following new section:

(a) The purpose of this section is to create a pilot program to determine whether
the operation of substance abuse treatment programs within jails could successfully
improve rehabilitative outcomes for inmates and reduce recidivism among inmates
following release from jail.

(b) The pilot program created by this section shall be established in a county
having a population of not less than one hundred seventy-two thousand three hundred
(172,300) nor more than one hundred seventy-two thousand four hundred (172,400)
according to the 2010 federal census or any subsequent federal census.

(c) The sheriff of the county in which the pilot program is established, or the
sheriff's designee, shall, in consultation with the department of mental health and
substance abuse services, create a program of substance abuse treatment services for
eligible inmates housed in the jail. The sheriff or the sheriff's designee shall hire two (2)
licensed social workers and two (2) caseworkers who have relevant education or
experience to administer the substance abuse treatment program.

(d)

(1) An inmate's participation in any substance abuse treatment services
shall be voluntary, and the inmate may withdraw from participation at any time.

(2) In order to participate in substance abuse treatment services, an inmate shall submit to a clinical substance abuse assessment to be administered by one (1) of the treatment providers hired pursuant to subsection (c). If the treatment provider determines, based on the assessment, that the inmate would benefit from substance abuse treatment, the inmate may participate in such treatment.

(3) The sheriff or sheriff's designee may refuse to permit an inmate to participate in substance abuse treatment services for any breach of discipline, security reason, or other violation of jail regulations.

(e) Participation in substance abuse treatment services administered pursuant to the pilot program created by this section shall be credited toward reduction of the inmate's sentence in the following manner: for each one (1) day of participation in the substance abuse treatment services, the inmate's sentence shall be reduced by two (2) days. Sentence reduction credits shall not be credited pursuant to this subsection (e), unless the inmate completes the substance abuse treatment program. If any inmate violates the rules and regulations of the jail, or otherwise behaves improperly, the sheriff may revoke all or any portion of the inmate's credit awarded pursuant to this subsection (e).

(f) The pilot program shall exist only for two (2) years through January 1, 2020. The sheriff shall report annually by January 1 of each year to the general assembly on the progress and success of the pilot program.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it, and shall cease to be effective January 1, 2020.