



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 461

SENATE BILL NO. 814

By Gardenhire, Lowe, Jackson

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1366

By Farmer, Faison, Hardaway, Sherrell, Howell, Davis, Wright, Whitson, Ragan, White, Rudder, Thompson, Terry, Todd, Camper, Helton-Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39; Title 40; Title 41 and Title 55, relative to criminal law.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 51, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

(a) The department of correction shall provide an inmate who is discharged from imprisonment for a felony offense and who intends to reside in this state with relevant documentation to assist the inmate in obtaining post-release employment and shall coordinate with the department of safety to provide a photo identification license, pursuant to § 55-50-336, if the inmate does not have a current photo identification license or driver license.

(b)(1) Nine (9) months before an inmate's release from custody, the department of correction, in coordination with the department of safety, shall identify whether the inmate has a current form of state identification and begin the process of gathering the documentation required for the issuance of a photo identification license, pursuant to § 55-50-336.

(2) The department of correction shall coordinate with the department of safety to provide a photo identification license to all eligible inmates who do not have a current photo identification license or driver license upon their release from custody. A photo identification license must be issued, replaced, canceled, or denied in the same manner as provided in § 55-50-336.

(3) The department of safety shall allow the use of a certified copy of a birth certificate coupled with a department of correction issued record card to serve as a valid form of photo identification documentation to obtain a photo identification license.

(4) A photo identification license issued with a record card from the department of correction for an inmate is valid for the same period as other photo identification licenses issued pursuant to § 55-50-336. The department of safety may charge a fee for issuance of a photo identification license. A photo identification license issued pursuant to this section is nonrenewable and nontransferable.

(5) The department of correction may utilize any funds available to cover the costs associated with the implementation and administration of this section and the purchase of photo identification licenses, including, but not limited to, inmate trust funds, existing funds of the department of correction, and donations.

(6) This subsection (b) applies only to inmates who may receive a photo identification license pursuant to § 55-50-336.

(c) For purposes of assisting an inmate in obtaining post-release employment, the department of correction shall provide the inmate with the following documentation:

- (1) A copy of the vocational training record of the inmate, if applicable;
- (2) A copy of the work record of the inmate, if applicable;
- (3) A certified copy of the birth certificate of the inmate, if obtainable;
- (4) A social security card or a replacement social security card of the inmate, if obtainable; and
- (5) A notification to the inmate of whether the inmate is eligible to apply for a license from a state entity charged with oversight of an occupational license or certification.

(d) The department of correction and the department of safety are authorized to promulgate rules to effectuate this part. The rules must be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect January 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 20, 2023




RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 17th day of May 2023



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR