

SENATE BILL 1742

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5;
Title 8, Chapter 26; Title 40 and Title 41, relative to
programs to reduce recidivism.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-8-106, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

(1) In addition to the reimbursement under subsection (c) and subdivision (g)(2), the department shall pay a recidivism-reduction stipend to any county:

(A) That has a population of less than three hundred thousand (300,000), according to the 2010 federal census or any subsequent federal census; and

(B) In which the county jail houses convicted felons pursuant to a contract with the state and provides evidence-based programs to reduce recidivism rates among convicted felons.

(2) The recidivism-reduction stipend must be set at an additional five dollars (\$5.00) per day to be added to the reimbursement for each convicted felon who is enrolled in a qualifying program at the county jail. If a felon is enrolled in more than one (1) program, the department shall pay a stipend for each program in which the felon is enrolled.

(3) The department shall determine the eligibility of programs, which may focus on education, vocational training, mental health, substance abuse rehabilitation, building healthy relationships, or any other specialty that can be shown by scientific research to effectively reduce the recidivism rate of felons and increase the likelihood of success

following release from incarceration. Each eligible program must be evidence-based and matched to the risk needs of enrolled offenders.

(4) In order to maintain the recidivism-reduction stipend, the county must provide documentation that at least seventy percent (70%) of the felons who enroll in the program go on to complete the program in a timely manner as determined by the department.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.