



*Smart Justice for a Safer Florida*

## **Smart Justice Bill – Key Points**

### ***What the bill does:***

- Develops a re-entry program designed specifically for lower-level offenders with short sentence lengths, who tend to cycle into and out of the system – would not affect current DOC programs providing re-entry services to more serious inmates with longer sentences
- Retains the current focus on violent inmates who DOC determines need to receive behavioral health care treatment and/or educational/vocational services
- Creates Correctional Re-entry Treatment Facilities (CRTFs), secure minimum custody prisons at which inmates nearing the end of their sentence can receive educational/vocational services and behavioral health care treatment
- The CRTFs shall be operated by competitive bid winners with experience in behavioral health care, educational/vocational and other transitional services
- DOC will determine eligibility for inmates with less than 36 months until the end of their sentence; the target population is non-violent third-degree felons; a specific list of offenses is provided for inmates who *would not* qualify for treatment
- No new legal rights would be conferred or created for inmate lawsuits
- DOC will assist inmates in obtaining necessary documents for a government-issued ID card for employment purposes
- DOC will “provide an expedited admission and classification process for offenders recommended by a court for admission” into a CRTF
- DOC will create a “Waiting List” for inmates who need treatment
- The list of specific services to be provided is detailed in the bill
- DOC will track recidivism by facility type to allow for evaluation of the facilities and identify best practices. In addition to the traditional DOC method of counting readmission to prison within three years, DOC would track arrests, charges and subsequent disposition
- Providers may subcontract with DOC and educational institutions for security and educational/vocational services

*(over)*

### What the bill doesn't do:

- It does *not* change anything regarding the requirement for inmates to serve at least 85% of their sentence
- It does *not* call for the early release of any prisoners
- It will *not* take away the opportunity for treatment services to be provided to inmates outside the target population identified for CRTFs; will continue current practices in which all re-entry programs have a mix of violent and non-violent inmates
- It does *not* remove DOC's authority to decide which inmates are to receive services within the targeted population of inmates (non-violent third-degree felons)
- It does *not* require DOC to create CRTFs unless an appropriation is provided by the Legislature
- It does *not* affect state sentencing statutes laws, so any offender who would go to prison under current law would still go to prison
- It does *not* create any right of action enabling an inmate to file a lawsuit because a particular service is not delivered
- It does *not* limit in any way DOC's ability to transfer an unruly or uncooperative inmate back to a non-treatment prison
- It does *not* require that any inmate must receive behavioral health care treatment
- It does *not* require DOC to provide government-issued ID cards, but rather directs DOC to attempt to obtain necessary documents if possible
- DOC will *not* have to change intake, admissions or classification procedures, but will expedite the process for inmates recommended to a CRTF by a judge
- It does *not* change the recidivism definition already established and used by DOC
- It does *not* create any new responsibility for DOC to report any different recidivism statistics than currently reported
- It does *not* preclude vendors who win competitive bids from subcontracting with DOC for security services or with an education institution for educational/vocational services