

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 23-0713.01 Conrad Imel x2313

SENATE BILL 23-067

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Coleman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

Judiciary
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAM FOR PERSONS**
102 **SENTENCED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**
103 **FACILITATED BY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**
104 **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS STAFF.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires the department of corrections (department) to operate a pilot program, known as the "re-imagine program" (program), at the Sterling correctional facility to provide program participants with

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

resources to support their rehabilitation and to reduce recidivism. The program is facilitated by a program board comprised of program participants and department staff. The program board shall review applications for participation in the program and approve applicants in accordance with program rules.

The program must provide training in trades and other employment-focused activities, education in skills beneficial for a participant following release from confinement, and mental health sessions. The program board shall create a program plan for each participant based on the participant's individual case and risk factors.

The bill requires the general assembly to appropriate money to fund the program through state fiscal year 2027-28. The department is required to annually report to the general assembly about the program. The pilot program is repealed June 30, 2028. The bill requires the department, in its annual reports in 2027 and 2028, to recommend whether to continue the program and whether to expand the program to other correctional facilities.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 17-33-103 as**
3 **follows:**

4 **17-33-103. Development of a pre-release and reentry program**
5 **- report - definitions - repeal. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE**
6 **CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:**

7 (a) "FACILITY" MEANS THE STERLING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

8 (b) "PROGRAM" MEANS A PRE-RELEASE AND REENTRY PROGRAM
9 DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENTS PURSUANT TO THIS
10 SECTION.

11 (c) "PROGRAM DEVELOPER" MEANS THE PERSON DESCRIBED IN
12 SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION ASSIGNED TO DEVELOP AND STUDY
13 STRATEGIES TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

14 (d) "PROGRAM REPORT" MEANS THE REPORT ISSUED BY THE
15 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (e) "RESIDENT" MEANS A PERSON SERVING A TERM OF

1 IMPRISONMENT AT THE FACILITY.

2 (f) "THIRD-PARTY ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN ORGANIZATION
3 THAT SATISFIES THE QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(d) OF
4 THIS SECTION THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS WITH PURSUANT TO
5 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

6 (2) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTRACT WITH A THIRD-PARTY
7 ORGANIZATION TO DEVELOP AND STUDY STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING
8 A PRE-RELEASE AND REENTRY PROGRAM THAT IS DESIGNED IN
9 CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENTS. THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAM IS TO
10 BENEFIT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS, THE FACILITY, AND THE DEPARTMENT
11 BY PROVIDING PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITH RESOURCES TO SUPPORT
12 THEIR REHABILITATION AND TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM UPON THEIR RELEASE
13 FROM THE FACILITY.

14 (b) (I) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
15 ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE THIRD-PARTY ORGANIZATION TO
16 ASSIGN AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED BY THE THIRD-PARTY ORGANIZATION
17 TO SERVE AS THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER AND CARRY OUT THE DUTIES
18 DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION. THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER MUST HAVE
19 EXPERIENCE IN MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, CULTURAL
20 COMPETENCY, AND THE REHABILITATION AND RECIDIVISM OF
21 JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS. THE CONTRACT MUST REQUIRE THE
22 PROGRAM DEVELOPER TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES DESCRIBED IN THIS
23 SECTION; EXCEPT THAT THE CONTRACT MUST PERMIT THE THIRD-PARTY
24 ORGANIZATION TO SUBCONTRACT WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT
25 HAVE EXPERTISE IN SUBJECT AREAS, SUCH AS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND
26 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS, THAT ARE BENEFICIAL TO THE
27 PROGRAM DEVELOPER IN CARRYING OUT THE DEVELOPER'S DUTIES.

1 (II) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALLOW THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER TO
2 WORK IN THE FACILITY WITH RESIDENTS AND MAY REQUIRE THE PROGRAM
3 DEVELOPER TO MEET THE SAME QUALIFICATIONS AS A PERSON WHO
4 SERVES AS A CORRECTIONAL OFFICER AT THE FACILITY. THE DEPARTMENT
5 MAY PROVIDE AND REQUIRE THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER TO COMPLETE
6 TRAINING NECESSARY FOR THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER TO WORK IN THE
7 FACILITY WITH RESIDENTS.

8 (III) THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER'S ONLY DUTIES ARE THOSE
9 DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION RELATED TO DEVELOPING THE PROGRAM,
10 STUDYING IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES, AND PREPARING THE PROGRAM
11 REPORT, INCLUDING CONSULTING WITH RESIDENTS TO DESIGN THE
12 PROGRAM AND CONDUCTING THE RESEARCH AND ANALYZING DATA
13 NECESSARY TO PREPARE THE PROGRAM REPORT. THE PROGRAM
14 DEVELOPER SHALL SPEND THE MAJORITY OF THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER'S
15 TIME CONSULTING WITH RESIDENTS TO DESIGN AND STUDY
16 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES FOR THE PROGRAM.

17 (IV) IN ORDER FOR THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER TO HAVE SUFFICIENT
18 TIME TO DEVELOP THE PROGRAM, STUDY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES,
19 AND PREPARE THE PROGRAM REPORT, THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER SHALL
20 BEGIN WORK NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15, 2023.

21 (c) THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION
22 STUDY MUST BE CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL DEPARTMENT AND
23 FACILITY RULES, AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRIORITIZE PROGRAM
24 DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION STUDY. THE DEPARTMENT
25 SHALL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER, INCLUDING
26 ENSURING ACCESS TO AS MANY RESIDENTS AS POSSIBLE.

27 (d) A THIRD-PARTY ORGANIZATION THAT CONTRACTS WITH THE

1 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) MUST HAVE PROVEN
2 EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH POPULATIONS THAT ARE OVERREPRESENTED
3 IN THE DEPARTMENT'S RESIDENT POPULATION AND MUST HAVE NOT
4 PREVIOUSLY CONTRACTED WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR ANY PURPOSE.

5 (3) (a) THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER SHALL CONSULT WITH
6 RESIDENTS TO DESIGN THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING DEVELOPING PROGRAM
7 CURRICULUM AND METRICS TO MEASURE PROGRAM SUCCESS. THE
8 PROGRAM DEVELOPER SHALL ALSO CONDUCT ANY RESEARCH NECESSARY
9 TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM REPORT.

10 (b) THE PROGRAM MUST PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH TRAINING
11 IN SKILLED OR PROFESSIONAL TRADES AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT-FOCUSED
12 ACTIVITIES, EDUCATION IN SKILLS BENEFICIAL TO A PARTICIPANT
13 FOLLOWING RELEASE FROM CONFINEMENT, AND MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL
14 HEALTH COUNSELING SESSIONS. ADDITIONALLY, THE PROGRAM MUST:

15 (I) BE DESIGNED IN CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENTS;

16 (II) INCLUDE A PROCESS FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR
17 RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM;

18 (III) INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, SESSIONS OR INSTRUCTION IN THE
19 FOLLOWING AREAS: GENERAL POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, ADDICTION
20 RECOVERY, VICTIM AWARENESS, TIME MANAGEMENT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
21 PREVENTION, PERSONAL FINANCE, LEADERSHIP, STRATEGIES FOR COPING
22 WITH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS, FAMILY REUNIFICATION UPON RELEASE,
23 FORGIVENESS, AND ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE. THE PROGRAM MUST
24 HAVE CUSTOMIZED CURRICULUM THAT EMPHASIZES DIFFERENT AREAS OF
25 STUDY FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE FROM THE
26 FACILITY WITHIN ONE YEAR AND FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE SCHEDULED
27 FOR RELEASE FROM THE FACILITY IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR.

1 (IV) WORK WITH PROFESSIONALS FROM OUTSIDE OF THE FACILITY,
2 WHO MAY INCLUDE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, MENTAL AND
3 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
4 PROFESSIONALS, AND SOCIOLOGISTS; AND

5 (V) PERMIT PROFESSIONALS FROM OUTSIDE THE FACILITY TO VISIT
6 AND WORK WITH PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN PERSON AT THE FACILITY.

7 (c) AS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION STUDY, THE PROGRAM
8 DEVELOPER SHALL EVALUATE THE COSTS, CHALLENGES, AND BENEFITS OF:

9 (I) PROVIDING PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WITH THE TECHNOLOGY
10 AND TOOLS NECESSARY TO WORK REMOTELY WITH PROFESSIONALS FROM
11 OUTSIDE THE FACILITY;

12 (II) PRIORITIZING OPERATING THE PROGRAM AND PROGRAM
13 ACTIVITIES WHILE COMPLYING WITH DEPARTMENT AND FACILITY RULES;

14 (III) PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PROGRAM
15 PARTICIPANTS RELEASED FROM THE FACILITY; AND

16 (IV) INCENTIVIZING EMPLOYERS WHO EMPLOY PROGRAM
17 PARTICIPANTS UPON RELEASE FROM THE FACILITY.

18 (4) (a) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2023, THE PROGRAM
19 DEVELOPER SHALL REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JUDICIARY
20 COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, OR THEIR
21 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, AND THE DEPARTMENT, ABOUT THE
22 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM.

23 (b) THE REPORT MUST MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
24 IMPLEMENTING AND OPERATING THE PROGRAM AT THE FACILITY,
25 INCLUDING:

26 (I) STATUTORY CHANGES NECESSARY TO OPERATE THE PROGRAM;

27 (II) STRATEGIES FOR HIRING AND RETAINING QUALIFIED PROGRAM

1 STAFF;
2 (III) FUNDING REQUIRED FOR THE PROGRAM; AND
3 (IV) METHODS TO EVALUATE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM,
4 INCLUDING THE TYPES OF QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DATA THAT
5 SHOULD BE COLLECTED ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND PROGRAM
6 PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING CAPTURING NARRATIVE EXPERIENCES FROM
7 PARTICIPANTS ABOUT SUBJECTS THAT ARE SUPPORTIVE OF PARTICIPANTS'
8 SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH, SUCH AS LEADERSHIP SKILLS,
9 CONFIDENCE, FEELING OF BELONGING, FEELING OF PURPOSE,
10 COMMUNICATION SKILLS, AND BETTERING INTERPERSONAL
11 RELATIONSHIPS. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE A RECOMMENDATION FOR
12 THE LENGTH OF A LONGITUDINAL STUDY NECESSARY TO EVALUATE THE
13 BENEFITS TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

14 (c) THE REPORT MUST ALSO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING
15 INFORMATION:

16 (I) DISAGGREGATED DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE
17 RESIDENTS WHOM THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER CONSULTED WITH DURING
18 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAM AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE
19 RESIDENTS' SENTENCES TO THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THE OFFENSES
20 FOR WHICH THE RESIDENTS WERE CONVICTED, THE LENGTH OF SENTENCE
21 TO INCARCERATION, THE TIME SERVED, AND THE RESIDENTS' CUSTODY
22 LEVEL;

23 (II) THE AMOUNT OF TIME THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER SPENT
24 CONSULTING WITH RESIDENTS, ORGANIZED BY THE DEMOGRAPHIC
25 INFORMATION OF THE RESIDENTS WITH WHOM THE PROGRAM DEVELOPER
26 CONSULTED;

27 (III) THE PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS EXPECTED TO BE ELIGIBLE

1 FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM;

2 (IV) DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANTICIPATED PROGRAM
3 SCHEDULE, INCLUDING THE AMOUNT OF TIME ALLOTTED EACH DAY FOR
4 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND HOW OFTEN A PARTICIPANT MUST PARTICIPATE
5 IN PROGRAM ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE THE INTENDED BENEFITS OF THE
6 PROGRAM;

7 (V) THE ANTICIPATED BENEFITS FROM THE PROGRAM FOR
8 PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS FOLLOWING
9 RELEASE FROM THE FACILITY, PARTICIPANTS NEARING RELEASE FROM THE
10 FACILITY, AND PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE SERVING AS MENTORS IN THE
11 PROGRAM; AND

12 (VI) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY OTHER POLICY CHANGES BASED
13 ON INFORMATION LEARNED FROM DEVELOPING THE PROGRAM AND
14 IMPLEMENTATION STUDY.

15 (d) THE REPORT MAY INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
16 OPERATING THE PROGRAM IN OTHER CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

17 (4.5) IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT BEFORE THE HOUSE AND SENATE
18 COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203 MADE DURING
19 THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE
20 INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT REQUIRED IN THIS
21 SECTION.

22 (5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2024.

23 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
24 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.