
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38—COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND OPERATIONS

MAY 21, 2003

Referred to Committee on Legislative Affairs and Operations

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Commission to conduct interim study of transitional housing for released offenders. (BDR R-1344)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study of transitional housing for released offenders.

- 1 WHEREAS, More than 2 million people are now incarcerated in
2 the United States, a four-fold increase over the past 25 years, and
3 statistics show that two-thirds of those released will be rearrested
4 within 3 years and that 40 percent will be returned to custody; and
5 WHEREAS, One of the greatest challenges facing American
6 society today is the reintegration of the more than 600,000 inmates
7 who leave state and federal prisons to return home each year, with
8 far-reaching consequences; and
9 WHEREAS, In the State of Nevada, the Department of
10 Corrections releases over 4,800 inmates every year to return to
11 communities that are ill-equipped to handle the many demands this
12 places on the limited resources available; and
13 WHEREAS, While states and the Federal Government have
14 allocated increasing shares of their budgets to building and
15 operating prisons, transitional housing is an alternative that has
16 proven to be more cost-effective and to have a positive impact on
17 the released offenders; and
18 WHEREAS, When an offender is released directly back into the
19 community from which he came, he is often returning to the friends
20 and environment that contributed to his criminal conduct and too
21 easily falls back into destructive patterns of behavior, which may
22 include alcohol or drug abuse, domestic violence and gang activity,



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1 and he may not be welcomed back into his own home because of the
2 chaos he has caused in his family; and

3 WHEREAS, Many released offenders are uneducated, have poor
4 life-management skills, and have little or no job skills, resulting in
5 bleak futures upon their release; and

6 WHEREAS, Many of those released have infectious diseases,
7 such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, HIV and AIDS, and 16 percent of
8 offenders have some form of mental illness; and

9 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that offenders released into
10 transitional housing, which provides them with food and shelter, a
11 supportive environment, peer review, mentors, counseling, job skills
12 and education, have fewer problems reintegrating into their
13 communities and have a much lower rate of recidivism; and

14 WHEREAS, Since many released offenders have not had to make
15 their own decisions for years and may have feelings of rage,
16 hostility and shame, transitional housing provides the offender with
17 a controlled environment where he is held accountable for his
18 actions while learning how to adjust to a new living situation, thus
19 easing his transition from prison life to community life and allowing
20 him to become a productive member of society; and

21 WHEREAS, Since more than 1.5 million children in the United
22 States have a parent in prison and a child of an inmate is five times
23 more likely than the average child to serve time in prison as an
24 adult, it is essential that those offenders who are parents successfully
25 reintegrate back into their communities; and

26 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada recognizes the economic and
27 social importance of transitional housing and similar programs for
28 offenders who are released back into the community after
29 confinement; now, therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
31 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is
32 hereby directed to appoint an interim committee, consisting of three
33 members of the Assembly and three members of the Senate, to
34 conduct a study of the feasibility of implementing a program for
35 transitional housing for felony offenders released on probation or
36 parole or released after discharge from the Department of
37 Corrections; and be it further

38 RESOLVED, That the study must include, without limitation:

39 1. The specific problems to be addressed while an offender is
40 living in transitional housing, such as employment, alcohol and drug
41 abuse, domestic violence and health issues, and the community
42 resources available to address these problems;



- 1 2. The evaluation of other programs for transitional housing
2 that have been successful, including, without limitation:
- 3 (a) Programs that require offenders to give back to their
4 communities by volunteering, such as building houses for Habitat
5 for Humanity or counseling young people in trouble with the law;
6 and
- 7 (b) Programs such as the Delancey Street Foundation and the
8 Altamont Program, where offenders are trained in such careers as
9 culinary arts, catering, building trades, and motel and restaurant
10 operations;
- 11 3. A cost comparison of keeping an offender in confinement
12 versus releasing him to transitional housing;
- 13 4. The development of reentry plans for offenders scheduled
14 for release and methods to be used to identify likely candidates for
15 transitional housing;
- 16 5. The costs of building and operating a transitional housing
17 facility, by size, by scope of service and by location;
- 18 6. The standards to be required of a transitional housing
19 facility, such as organization, house rules and consequences for
20 negative behavior, to ensure a structured, positive environment, and
21 the varying degrees of restrictions and monitoring required for
22 certain offenders;
- 23 7. Specific requirements that must be met by a transitional
24 housing facility to receive licensing, including a review of the
25 related requirements of state and federal agencies;
- 26 8. Identification of any unique or specific issues to be
27 addressed for youthful offenders, women and the mentally ill;
- 28 9. Solutions to best address transitional housing for sex
29 offenders because of the safety concerns of the community in
30 having these offenders living in their neighborhoods and the
31 hostility of persons in the community towards these offenders;
- 32 10. Methods to be used to ensure communication between
33 transitional housing facilities and the Division of Parole and
34 Probation of the Department of Public Safety, such as reports and
35 methods of monitoring facilities and offenders; and
- 36 11. A review of the practices and resources of the Department
37 of Corrections and the Division of Parole and Probation of the
38 Department of Public Safety concerning the release of offenders into
39 the community; and be it further
- 40 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
41 committee must be approved by a majority of the members of the
42 Senate and a majority of the members of the Assembly appointed to
43 the committee; and be it further



1 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall submit a
2 report of the results of the study and any recommendations for
3 legislation to the 73rd Session of the Nevada Legislature.

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