

1 H.312

2 Introduced by Representative Hooper of Montpelier

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Corrections; supervision; offender reintegration; recidivism

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to provide that planning for offender
7 reintegration address employment and housing and that offenders receive
8 educational and vocational training prior to release.

9 An act relating to offender reintegration and recidivism

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. 28 V.S.A. § 721 is amended to read:

12 § 721. OFFENDER REINTEGRATION; STATE POLICY

13 The department shall establish an offender reintegration process that
14 requires offenders to be held accountable to their victims and the community
15 and provides tools to aid offenders in reintegration and in avoiding recidivism.

16 This process shall provide opportunities for victims of crime and other
17 members of the community to participate in reentry programs under section 2a
18 of this title and to allow for victims and members of the communities to
19 provide input to the department as provided for in subsection 104(a) of this
20 title. Such input shall include, but not be limited to, the nature of the planned

1 supervision, the offender's work and education needs, the potential impact to
2 the victim(s) of the offender's presence in the community, and the
3 opportunities to make use of the offender's abilities within the community.

4 For the purpose of reducing recidivism, this process also shall provide the
5 offender prior to his or her release with the education, vocational training, and
6 counseling necessary to promote successful reintegration. An offender who
7 participates in the reintegration process provided for in this subchapter may be
8 placed in the community under the department's supervision for the remainder
9 of the sentence if the department is satisfied that the offender is demonstrating
10 progress in his or her reentry programs and that the offender does not present
11 an unreasonable risk to his or her victims or to the community at large.

12 Sec. 2. 28 V.S.A. § 723 is amended to read:

13 § 723. CONDITIONAL REENTRY

14 * * *

15 (d) Prior to release under this section, the department shall assess the
16 resources and skills available to each offender and work with the offender in
17 preparing a reentry plan that promotes successful reintegration into the
18 community and the workforce. The reentry planning process shall address
19 housing, employment, and factors necessary to maintain employment such as
20 transportation and vocational training. To the extent possible, education and
21 vocational training shall be provided prior to release.

1 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.