

SB

51

HFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

No. 1

STATE OF ALASKA
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: SB 51
(S) Publish Date: 3-8-93

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services
Title: An act providing for establishment of work BRU: Family & Youth Services
camp for juveniles adjudicated delinquent... Component: Central Office
Sponsor: Senator R. Phillips
Requestor: _____ COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0259

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	7.3					
SUPPLIES	1.0					
EQUIPMENT	1.0					
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE FUND SOURCE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	9.3					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY93) impact: 0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

SB 51 would allow the Department to establish juvenile work camps for youth adjudicated delinquent. This fiscal note is for the administrative costs associated with the adoption of standards and regulations for the design, construction, repair, maintenance, and operation of all juvenile work camps. This would include the adoption of formal regulations, the publication of standards for the accreditation of work camp programs, consistent with the accreditation requirements for other state youth corrections programs.

This fiscal note does not fund the operation of a work camp.

Prepared by: Deborah R. Wing, Director
Division: Department of Health & Social Services

Approved by Commissioner: Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH
Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Phone: 465-3191
Date: 01/25/93
Date: 1/26/93

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HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: April 19, 1993

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 5/6/93

The FINANCE Committee considered:

SB 51

SENATE BILL NO. 51

WORK CAMPS FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS

"An Act providing for establishment of work camps for juveniles adjudicated delinquent, and extending to all cities and to nonprofit corporations authority to maintain facilities for juveniles."

RECOMMENDATIONS: [] the same title
 be replaced with _____ [] a new title

[] have attached amendments(s)

[] do pass

[] do not pass

[] no recommendations

[] individual recommendations

[] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) _____

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) _____

[] fiscal impact _____

[X] fiscal note(s) HSS 3/8/93

[] zero fiscal note _____

[] zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Ronald J. Larson</i> Larson	X	<i>Eileen P. Wulken</i> Wulken		✓	
<i>Mark Hanley</i> Hanley	X	<i>Sean R. Paraghi</i> Paraghi		X	
<i>Terry Martin</i> Martin	X	<i>Tom Hoff</i> Hoffman		✓	
<i>Ben Grussendorf</i> Grussendorf	X	<i>Mike Navarre</i> Navarre		✓	
<i>Les Therriault</i> Therriault	X	<i>Ray Brown</i> Brown		✓	
		<i>Richard J. Foster</i> Foster		X	

Ronald J. Larson E.P. Wulken
CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

Back-up



Chair
*Legislative Budget and Audit
Community and Regional Affairs*

Alaska State Legislature

Randy Phillips

State Senator
District L

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State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
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NEWS RELEASE

JANUARY 19, 1993

SUBJECT: JUVENILE BOOTCAMP BILL

CONTACT: 465-4949 REP
SENATOR RANDY PHILLIPS

As part of an effort to enhance Alaska's juvenile justice system, Republican Senator Randy Phillips of Eagle River, has introduced what is popularly termed a "boot camp bill" for delinquent juveniles.

Senator Phillips explains that Senate Bill 51 is virtually identical to legislation introduced during the previous Legislature to establish work camps for juvenile offenders. SB 51 would offer the option of placing a juvenile in a work camp instead of another institution. The so-called "boot camps" would be operated by either a city or a non-profit corporation.

* A so-called "boot camp" is considered a residential facility set aside for use only by minors. Those individuals placed in such an alternative facility may be required to labor on buildings and grounds or perform other activity, including education.

SB 51 is patterned after a program used successfully in Nevada. The Nevada system and the system offered in SB 51 stresses academics, physical labor and structured discipline.

POSITION PAPER

SB 51

For An Act Entitled: "An Act providing for establishment of work camps for juveniles adjudicated delinquent, and extending to all cities and to nonprofit corporations authority to maintain facilities for juveniles."

Background

The purpose of the juvenile justice system is rehabilitative individualized treatment, planned and provided in the best interests of the child. Since the philosophy and purpose of the juvenile courts is treatment and not punishment, juvenile services historically have differed greatly from those found in the adult system.

Today, programs in the adult system are finding their way into the juvenile system or are being provided to juveniles who have been certified and remanded to the adult system. One such program is the juvenile work camp.

Juvenile work camps first began to appear in Georgia and Oklahoma in 1983. They were based on the military model of a boot camp. By 1990, 14 states were operating some form of a camp program for young offenders as an alternative to long term incarceration.

Camp programs were used in Alaska's juvenile system during the 1970's as an intermediate step to long term incarceration at a state juvenile facility. These programs eventually were discontinued due, in part, to a lack of effectiveness. Any future camp programs would be a new initiative that could benefit from the department's past experiences.

Analysis/Program Impact

The department has not yet developed a work camp model for use in Alaska's juvenile system. Two major policy questions must be addressed prior to the establishment of work camp programs. First, are these programs to be established as a diversion alternative to long term incarceration in a juvenile correctional facility or as a more intensive punitive form of probation? Secondly, what type of young offenders should be targeted for the camp program?

Next, the department must establish the objectives of the program. The most frequently stated goals of camp programs

nationally are to: (1) reduce overcrowding in correctional facilities; (2) deter the offenders from crime; (3) rehabilitate offenders; and (4) reduce the cost of treatment.

As the department moves forward in its development of a juvenile work camp model, it is intended that these camps be accredited by the American Correctional Association, consistent with juvenile facilities currently operated by the department.

The accreditation process provides programs with nationally accepted standards for operation. The process also provides program evaluation by nationally independent authorities external to the department.

Department Position

The department is committed to the development of effective innovation in the treatment of juvenile offenders. The development of work camp programs is one alternative in a range of programs under consideration.

The department supports SB 51, as it clearly would enable the establishment of another treatment alternative for juvenile offenders and thereby increase the potential for successful rehabilitation.

Recommended: Deborah R. Wing Date: 4/16/93

Deborah R. Wing, Director
Division of Family and Youth Services

Approved: Theodore A. Mala Date: 4/21/93

Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH
Commissioner
Department of Health and Social Services

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES



Alaska State Legislature

Chair
*Legislative Budget and Audit
Community and Regional Affairs*

Vice-Chair
Transportation

February 19, 1993

Randy Phillips

State Senator
District L

Session
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Sectional Analysis

SB 51

Section 1:

Amends AS 47.10.080(b) to allow the department of health and social services to place in a juvenile work camp a delinquent minor committed to the department by the court.

Section 2:

Amends AS 47.10.150 by adding juvenile work camps to the types of juvenile institutions over which the department has certain powers.

Section 3:

Amends AS 47.10.160(a) to include juvenile work camp; in the list of specific duties the department must perform under the chapter governing juvenile institutions.

Section 4:

Amends AS 47.10.170 to allow a city or a non-profit corporation to maintain and operate a juvenile work camp; and, to allow a city or non-profit corporation to receive grants-in-aid for the operation of a camp.

Section 5:

Amends AS 47.10.180(a) to authorize the department to adopt regulations for the operation of juvenile work camps.

Section 6:

Amends AS 47.10.190 by applying to work camps the conditions governing the detention of juveniles.

Section 7:

Amends AS 47.10.990 by adding a definition of "juvenile work camp."



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Memorandum

TO: Senator Steve Rieger, Chair
Health, Education and Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator Randy Phillips *Rep*

DATE: February 19, 1993

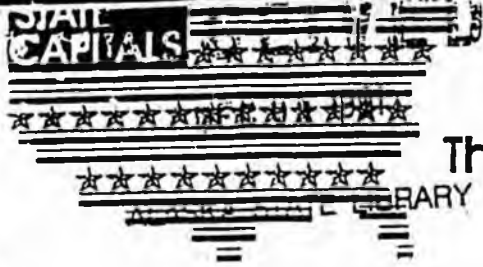
RE: Senate Bill No. 51
"An Act relating to the establishment of
work camps for juveniles adjudicated delinquent, and
extending to all cities and to nonprofit corporations
authority to maintain facilities for juveniles."

A "work-camp" is a residential facility set aside for use only by minors. Those individuals placed in such an alternative facility may be required to labor on buildings and grounds or perform other activity, including education. Senate Bill 51 authorizes the Department of Health and Social Services to establish regulations for the operations of "work camps" and to place delinquent minors into work camps instead of another type of detention facility.

Further, Senate Bill 51 provides that a city or a non-profit corporation may maintain and operate a juvenile work camp under regulations to be adopted by the Department of Health and Social Services.

A work camp for juveniles is used successfully in Nevada. The Nevada system stresses academics, physical labor and structured discipline. The China Spring facility has been operated since 1981. Rather than being a punitive institution, the work camp is based on achievement and accountability. Clients in the camp are taught social and personal responsibility in a structured environment. They are able to earn privileges by showing responsibility.

Twenty-three (23) states have some form of "boot-camp" or "work-camp" alternative for young adult offenders. The environment of a boot camp or work camp promotes the values of our society and should help to rehabilitate young offenders and ultimately reduce corrections costs and juvenile crime.



OUTLOOK

The

from the STATE CAPITALS

AN IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF STATE AND MUNICIPAL ACTION ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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Vol. 45 No. 34

States, counties opening boot camps for juveniles

COMPLIMENTS OF THE ALASKA STATE LIBRARY

and some private firms providing prison health care

In This Issue:

Boot Camps:

2/County gets federal funds for camp *Ohio*

2/State building three camps *Massachusetts*

2/Boot camp under-used *Virginia*

Privatization:

3/State privatizes medical care *Massachusetts*

3/Examining health care proposals *South Dakota*

4/Inmates may be sent to county treatment center *Oklahoma*

Eager to improve the effectiveness and reduce the cost of juvenile corrections, states and counties around the nation are experimenting with boot camps for youthful offenders. The camps, which stress hard physical labor and stern discipline, are designed to scare kids straight so they won't end up in adult prisons. It's unclear yet whether the camps are effective, but many officials, most recently in Massachusetts and Ohio, have said they have high hopes for them. Another notable trend in state justice policy is driven by tight budgets. Numerous states are looking at hiring private firms to provide medical care to prison inmates. Prison medical costs are soaring, at least partially because many inmates entering prison suffer from serious health problems caused by their addictions to drugs or alcohol. Some states, too, have aging prison populations with expanded health care needs.

Privatizing prison health care is controversial, since it results in the loss of state jobs. Sometimes the private firm rehires the former state workers, but frequently at lower salaries than they were paid by the state. Privatizing also raises a key issue: Can private firms supply the same quality of care as state workers? To keep current with both of these trends, read Public Safety & Justice Policies: From the STATE CAPITALS each week.

Boot Camps:

Ohio county to open experimental boot camp

Some juvenile offenders in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, will be sentenced to a boot camp style of detention starting early next year to get a dose of discipline and self-confidence they may need.

The Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has awarded Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court a grant worth \$779,000 to fund a pilot boot camp program, which is to serve as a model for other such camps elsewhere. The county is a partner in the experiment with the Northeastern Family Institute of Boston, a private, non-profit human services agency that will manage the 18-month program.

Cuyahoga County's program is one of three in the country to receive funding for a boot camp experiment. The others are social service programs in Mobile, Alabama, and Denver, Colorado. A Justice Department spokesman said the agency intends to expand research and evaluation of boot camps and other shock incarceration programs across the country.

Starting in April, 30 boys at a time will be sent for 90-day stays at the Cuyahoga County camp, at the county's Youth Development Center in Hudson

Village. Youths will be sent there as an alternative to six- to nine-month stays at traditional juvenile detention homes such as the state-run Cuyahoga Hills Boys School.

While living at the camp, the youths will rise early and face a number of physical challenges, such as obstacle courses and wilderness survival training. The object is to teach physical conditioning and self-discipline.

"There's a high emphasis on rehabilitation, not punishment, so there's a better chance of changing their behavior so they don't repeat it," said Elsie Day, director of community services for the county's juvenile court. "It also builds self-esteem from doing physically challenging things. These kids often have poor self-esteem, which is why they get involved in negative activities."

She said the camp, though styled after military boot camps, would not be as militaristic or as strict as adult boot camps. The program will involve traditional aspects of juvenile detention, such as schooling and counseling, Day said. After completing the camp, youths will spend several more months in counseling and rehabilitation programs.

Massachusetts plans three juvenile boot camps

Massachusetts Gov. William F. Weld and Lt. Gov. Paul Cellucci have broken ground for the first of three military-style

boot camps for youthful offenders.

The \$6 million facility will house 256 inmates in four boot-camp-style buildings featuring open bunking. In all, seven buildings will be built on the 12-acre grounds at the Bridgewater Correctional Complex.

"Innovative programs such as boot camps help us utilize scarce secure prison beds for those truly needing traditional facilities," Weld said. At the same time, Cellucci said, the boot camp approach is an attempt to change the habits of young offenders before they become career criminals. The sites for the remaining two boot camps have not been announced yet.

Virginia boot camp is underused

Virginia Department of Corrections officials say the state's new boot camp is being underused and that the State Crime Commission should determine if more inmates can be included in the program.

Under the new program, judges can sentence first-time, non-violent offenders to the boot camp where they undergo a 90-day regimen of drilling, hard labor and education. If they complete the program, they are released under supervision for a year.

The program was designed to ease prison crowding and to return the prisoners to society with a better sense of self.

Currently, the program has 52 participants, though it has room for 96.

Privatization:

Massachusetts hires private firm to provide health care

Massachusetts has hired a Florida company to provide health care at the state's prisons, a move that Gov. William Weld says will save the state from \$8 million to \$14 million a year.

The contract, to Emergency Medical Services Associates, was the first Weld administration move to privatize a state service. Weld said it would not be the last. Weld said almost 400 state employees could lose their jobs, but EMSA can hire those workers when the contract takes effect Jan. 1.

"This contract is an excellent example of the privatization approach we plan to employ throughout state government," he said. "It's not a matter of the private sector versus the public sector, it's a matter of monopoly versus competition."

EMSA, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, was the low bidder at \$28.7 million, Public Safety Secretary Thomas Kapone said. Four national companies competed for the contract.

"The amount of savings reflects the fact that the state has been paying too much for prisoner medical services in the past," said Weld. "We pay

something like \$4,000 per inmate per year, and other comparable states spend closer to \$2,000 per inmate per year, so that was a red flag that really led us to look in this area for privatization."

EMSA currently operates health care services for three prisons — a 2,000-bed prison in southern Florida, an 1,800-bed county jail in West Palm Beach, Florida, and a 5,000-bed prison in Virginia.

Alabama, Arkansas, New Mexico, Kansas, Maryland and Delaware contract prison health care services, according to Massachusetts officials. Thirteen other states contract out up to 80 percent of health services, and six others contract a little more than half their health services to private companies, the officials said.

Weld said EMSA would cut outside medical visits by inmates from the current average of about 500 a week to 500 a month, and would be penalized \$100 for every outside trip above that limit. Rapone said the privatization also would alleviate medical malpractice suits filed against the state by inmates. He said there were "an inordinate amount" of such suits pending.

Previously, the state and a private firm, Goldberg Medical Associates, had provided medical care to prisoners. Goldberg Medical's \$12 million contract expires Dec. 31. Weld said he next would look to privatize the

prison system's food delivery services.

South Dakota wants to expand privatization

The South Dakota Corrections Department won't pick a company to provide health care for the whole prison system for several months, Secretary Lynne DeLano says.

The department is now doing a cost analysis of five proposals submitted over the summer, she said. It also is studying if the companies should submit bids.

The prison system now has several contracts with individual health-care providers. Over the summer, it asked two Sioux Falls hospitals and three out-of-state companies that specialize in corrections health care for plans on providing every kind of medical service for all its facilities.

The services would include physicians, nurses, mental health care, and inmate and staff education. DeLano said the Corrections Department would save money by having one company provide all health care.

The department's director of finance, Richard Decker, said regular medical expenses at the State Penitentiary increased from \$492,000 in 1989 to \$638,000 in 1991. They're projected to hit \$640,000 next year, he said.

Regular costs at the co-ed Springfield Correctional Facility



JAN 17 1992

(702) 782-9870

Post Office Box 218 • Minden, Nevada 89423

DOUGLAS COUNTY

January 13, 1992

Senator Virginia Collins
Alaska State Legislature
Post Office Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Collins:

Pursuant to your request, enclosed please find a brief history of China Spring. You may also wish to obtain a copy of Nevada Revised Statutes 234.297 to 244.299 as amended in Chapter 31 of the 1960 Nevada State Legislature.

Please advise if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Harper
Director

MJH:sc

CHINA SPRING YOUTH CAMP

LOCATION

2.5 miles south of Bodie Flat, in Douglas County, approximately nine miles from Minden and Gardnerville. The mailing address is Post Office Box 218, Minden, Nevada 89423.

HISTORY

In 1979 District Judge Howard McKibben, Chief Probation Officer James Estabrook and members of the local community perceived a need for a juvenile placement facility to serve as an alternative to the Nevada Youth Training Center at Elko. Jewel and Stoddard Jacobsen, of Gardnerville, donated forty acres of land for the project. China Spring Youth Camp obtained an energy conservation grant, service clubs assistance, and an additional community fund raising effort raised \$80,000.00. During the summer of 1981, using a CETA Youth Work Project Grant and with the cooperation of local contractors, a road was cut into the property. In August of 1983, the Camp was opened and operated until July of 1985.

The Camp underwent major renovations from 1985 to 1987. It was reopened in June of 1987 with a 30 bed capacity and is presently a self-contained facility located in a wilderness setting. The facility utilizes solar energy, "state of the art" in energy conservation. The Camp consists of seven facilities: a dormitory, messhall, office/laundry, hatcher, school facility and administrative offices. The Camp has its own water system.

Since China Spring Youth Camp re-opened, the staff has continued to develop in-house programs designed to give the residents every opportunity to make meaningful and positive changes in their lives. Each day is filled with academics, physical training, work projects and counseling. Each resident learns self discipline and task completion.

The China Spring Youth Camp is currently capable of housing 30 mid-level juvenile offenders. We offer a staff secured facility that provides a structured environment that develops self discipline, confidence and improved academic standing. The Camp has accepted placement from all Nevada Judicial Districts.

MISSION

The China Spring Youth Camp is a regional training, residential facility for mid-level juvenile offenders. The Camp is established as a staff-secured facility whose purpose is to provide the structure and programs necessary for the resident youth to

overcome their delinquent and anti-social behaviors, and to facilitate a positive reintegration into the family and the community.

GOALS

1. To modify the behavior patterns of residents by providing an opportunity for achievement in a controlled and structured environment.
2. To work with the residents through the different programs to enable him to have the skill to function appropriately when he re-enters his home, school and community.

COMMITMENT CRITERIA/PROCEDURE

1. The child be adjudicated a delinquent child within the purview of Chapter 62 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.
2. Child to be committed to the care and custody and control of the Superintendent of the Nevada Youth Training Center at Elko.
3. That commitment be suspended and the child be placed on formal probation with the condition that he successfully complete the program.

The above procedure will allow for the sending county to maintain jurisdiction of the child upon the release from the Camp and his return to the community.

CAMP DISCIPLINE

The China Spring Youth Camp Program is based on accountability and achievement. The Camp is not a punitive institution. The clients of the Camp are taught social and personal responsibility in a structured environment in which privileges are earned. For every privilege granted to a client, an equal responsibility is assigned.

EDUCATION

Educational programming is provided by the Douglas County School District. General academic programs are offered. Additional instruction is available in the use of computers and vocational classes. Apprenticeships are implemented in welding, cooking and various agricultural activities.

Emphasis in the educational setting is on obtaining the basic skills that facilitate their integration into society and the work place. As most residents have had academic problems, additional emphasis is placed on making up any credits they may be deficient in for graduation.

COUNSELING

The youth at Camp need direction, guidance and the experience of taking personal responsibility for their actions. The Camp is committed to an intensive, dedicated, caring and professional approach. The staff work to enable the youth to take charge of their lives and develop the confidence and self esteem to satisfactorily adjust to the community.

Each resident is involved in private and individual counseling. The Camp has on staff, state certified alcohol and drug counselors, and a program administrator for alcohol and drugs.

Residents are involved in counseling that includes programs from the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, reality therapy, behavior modification, personal hygiene, personal finance, ethics, the youth and the law, goal setting, job search skills and others in an ongoing process.

STAFF

The China Spring Youth Camp employs and trains a professional counseling staff. Staff members must possess skills that lend themselves to all areas of the program. The resident must have access to a skilled counselor on a 24 hour a day basis. China Spring Youth Camp staff does not perform straight supervision duties, with their skills they set the tone for an environment conducive to behavioral change.

TREATMENT

The residents shall have a treatment plan completed within the first thirty (30) days of residence. The plan will be prepared by staff counselors in cooperation with the resident. The plan shall include the following goals: behavioral, educational, psychological, family and community, and work.

WILDERNESS PROGRAM

The developmental concept of wilderness training is to provide an opportunity for achievement in a setting dissimilar from the settings of a juvenile offenders non-achievement. Any person's

ability to become proficient in the social skills necessary to become a contributory element of society is dependent on the individual's concept of self worth, his perception of his functional social abilities, and his degree of self discipline.

In an attempt to overcome a history of societal failure, a youth referred to the China Spring Wilderness Program is given an opportunity to achieve in a highly structured setting. The program functions by providing problem solving tasks set in a unique physical social environment which impels the learner to mastery of these tasks.

The participants are exposed to natural laws and their consequences. Unlike many of society's laws, the problems they present tend to be straightforward, but often, their solutions require flexibility and creativity. In the wilderness setting, the youth is no longer able to rationalize his failures as being the fault of another person or institution. The counselors provide the instruction and the expertise necessary for the youth to be successful; it is the youth's efforts, however, that will determine his success. Once a youth has learned that the degree of his success is limited, only by his efforts and knowledge, that lesson is transferred to the other elements of camp life and into a redevelopment of self awareness and self esteem, and this changes the direction of his problem solving behavior in the general society.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Residents are involved in daily activities that provide benefits to the Camp and develop new skills for the residents. These have included community projects of laying sod at schools and county facilities, landscaping of Camp grounds, care of chukar project, building maintenance, fence building, gardening, construction tasks and vocational training.

FOOD SERVICES

The Food Service Unit is responsible for providing nutritious, well balanced meals that will ensure the necessary daily dietary requirements for each resident. Meals will be in compliance with guidelines set by the United State Department of Health and Welfare in conjunction with the National School Lunch Program through the State Department of Education.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Medical services are available 24 hours a day.

AFTERCARE

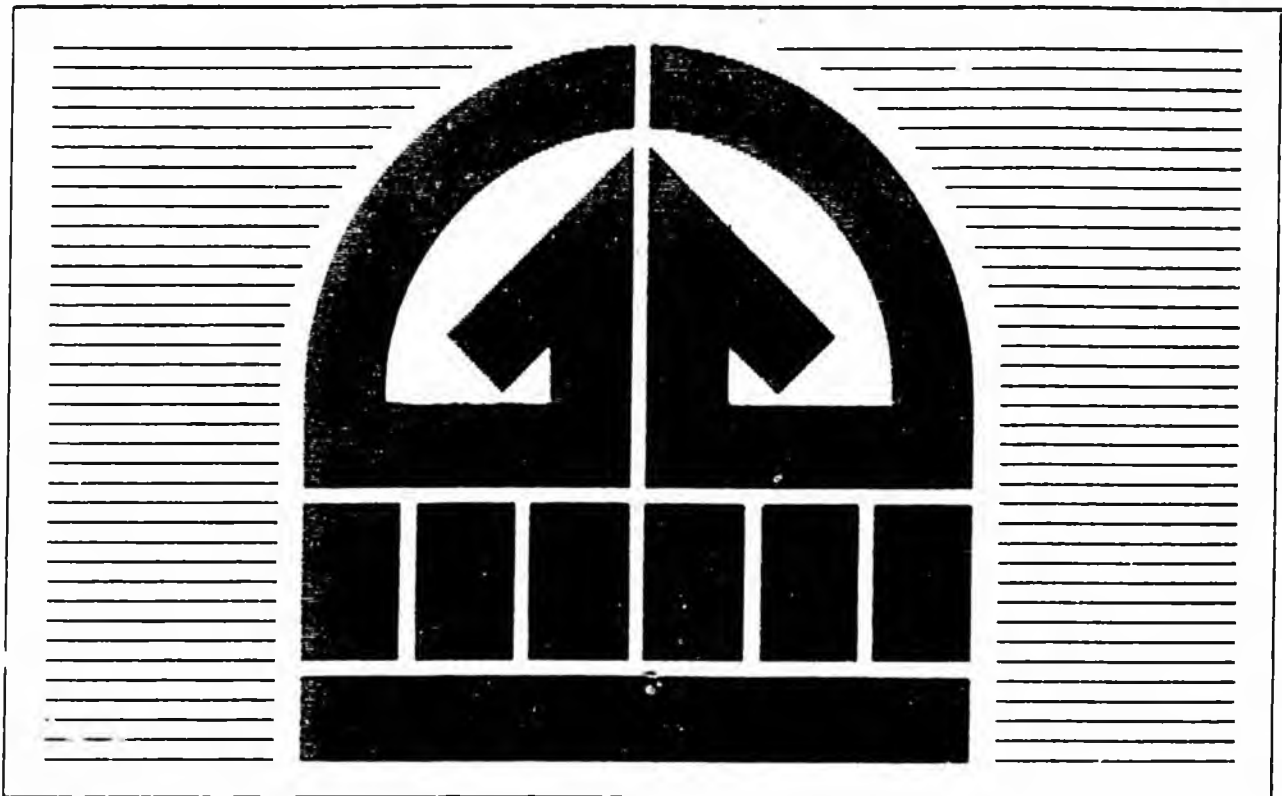
The children who are released from China Spring Youth Camp will return to their original jurisdiction. The committing Probation Officer or Youth Parole Service retains custody of the child and is kept informed of the residents progress. Family counseling for the children who reside in outlying counties will be provided by Rural Clinics Community Mental Health Center of the State of Nevada.

FUTURE GOALS

As the Camp continues to grow many goals and projects still lie ahead. As the need arises, China Spring Youth Camp is prepared to expand to a capacity of 40 residents. Nevada has a rapidly growing population and consequently increasing need for residential juvenile facilities. The State of Nevada already faces continual over crowding at its training center. China Spring Youth Camp provides a viable low cost alternative to expansion of State facilities.

Future projects include the construction of a vocational arts building, completion of athletic fields, an additional water well and a reservoir for increased fire protection.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT



PRISON BOOT CAMPS: POLICY CONSIDERATIONS AND OPTIONS

by

Kae M. Warnock
Staff Assistant
and
Donna Hunzeker
Senior Policy Specialist

Vol. 16, No. 1 March 1991

GOVERNMENT
6731

An Information Service of the National Conference of State Legislatures
2301 Broadway, Suite 700, Denver, Colorado 80202. William T. Pound, Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

A new breed of correctional facility has evolved out of concerns over increased drug crime and prison overcrowding, and the belief that traditional prisons often fail to rehabilitate offenders. In addition, there has been growing public sentiment that offenders be held accountable for their crimes and that serious offenders serve longer sentences. This has added to prison crowding and motivated state policymakers to search for intermediate sanctions for less-serious offenders.

Boot camps--also known as shock incarceration, special alternative incarceration or regimented inmate discipline--are military-style facilities distinguished by reveille, close-order drills, marching and demanding physical requirements. Participants are usually young adult offenders with no prior incarceration who are serving time for their first non-violent felony conviction. Offenders attend a boot camp program for a shorter duration than a standard prison sentence, 60 to 180 days depending on the state program, and then ordinarily are released on parole for an additional year or more. Boot camps are politically popular because the public sees the programs as "tough on crime." Corrections officials often like the programs because the stringent rules and schedules provide a more controlled environment for offenders than standard incarceration.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Boot camps for young adult offenders now operate in at least 23 states, and another seven states are in the process of setting up boot camp programs.

Oklahoma and Georgia opened the first boot camp programs in 1983. Most states with programs have added them just since 1987, and considerable legislative activity has occurred since 1989. Sixteen states enacted enabling legislation in the 1989 or 1990 sessions: Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Eight states--Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, New York and South Carolina--enacted enabling legislation between 1983 and 1989. At least five states -- Idaho, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina and Oklahoma--operate boot camps under department of corrections regulatory authority. At least one county, Los Angeles, is operating a one-year pilot project.(Figure 1)

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Prison-bound or probation-bound offenders

Perhaps the central policy issue to be addressed in considering or expanding boot camp programs is whether the program will be used to divert prison-bound offenders or as a more intensive, punitive form of probation.

In at least 19 states, statutes specify boot camps as an alternative for prison-bound offenders, with the intent of providing shorter more intensive terms in a boot camp for some offenders who would have served a longer prison term. In most states that statutorily divert prison-bound offenders to boot camp, the length of the original sentence is not specified by statute. In states that do designate original sentence length for program eligibility, the offender may be trading a sentence as short as three years for six months in a boot camp (New York) or a sentence as long as 15 years for 120 days in a boot camp (Alabama).(Appendix A)

In at least five states, probation-bound offenders are targeted by statute in order to provide boot camps as a sentencing option for offenders for whom straight probation was considered too lenient. Probation-bound offenders are diverted into the boot camp program by the sentencing judge. Both Connecticut and Georgia statutes allow the court to use boot camp as a condition of probation, and Arizona uses it as a condition of intensive probation.(Appendix A)

Tennessee is the only state found to have two separate statutes; one targets prison-bound offenders and the other targets probation-bound offenders. Theoretically, prison-bound and probation-bound offenders could serve side-by-side in the same boot camps. As yet, however, no probation-bound offenders have been sent to Tennessee's boot camp, according to the department of corrections.

Ten states give the court primary discretion to determine whether otherwise prison-bound or probation-bound offenders are sentenced to boot camps. Often, offenders sentenced to boot camps by a judge must also then be screened and accepted by the Department of Corrections (DOC).(Appendix A)

In about 12 states, the department of corrections has considerable discretion for diverting prison-sentenced inmates into boot camps. In six of these states, the DOC's discretion is somewhat diluted because the court maintains jurisdiction and continues to oversee and review the offender's case throughout the program.(Appendix A)

Target offenders

Most states specify that participants in boot camps be non-violent felony offenders who have never served time in a prison. A majority of the states target a specific age group either by statute or by DOC policy, the most common range being from 17 to 25 years of age. New Mexico and Wisconsin target certain drug offenders for the program. Several states statutorily exclude certain crimes such as murder, first degree rape, first degree kidnapping, first degree robbery, capital or life felonies, sex offenses, child abuse or child sexual abuse. Many state laws require that offenders be physically and mentally fit. At least five states have boot camps for women.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The most frequently stated goals of boot camps are to reduce prison overcrowding, deter offenders from crime, rehabilitate young adult offenders and reduce corrections costs.

Reducing Prison Overcrowding

Several states have authorized boot camps, with reduction of prison overcrowding as a goal of the program. In Arkansas, offenders are evaluated according to a set of guidelines adopted by the Board of Correction, under statutory language which says the program is "designed to reduce inmate population by diverting eligible offenders from long-term incarceration." (Ark. Stat. Ann. 12-28-701 to 12-28-705 (1989)) The Florida law indicates that "Due to severe prison overcrowding, the Legislature declares the construction of a basic training program facility is necessary to aid in alleviating an emergency situation." (Fla. Stat. Ann. 958.04 (West 1990))

However, an analysis done by Abt Associates, Inc. for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), of the U.S. Department of Justice in 1989 said that in comparing maximum annual capacity in boot camps in a number of states to total prison population, the potential effect of boot camps on prison overcrowding is small. Boot camp capacity as a percent of prison population ranged from 1.1 percent in Florida to 11.6 percent in Mississippi according to the NIJ analysis. Boot camps averaged about 4.7 percent of total prison populations in the states examined. Current selection criteria for participants would, therefore, limit the number of facilities needed to a relatively small number.(1,p.12)

Deterrence and Rehabilitation

Another commonly stated purpose of boot camps is to deter offenders from committing additional crimes by giving them a "taste" of prison. This may be particularly true where boot camps are used as a more punitive form of probation. Many boot camps operate within a conventional state prison, but participants are separated from the general population. This gives offenders a "close, sobering exposure to the realities of prison life, but without subjecting them to abuse, exploitation or corruption by hardened criminals," according to the NIJ study. (1,p.xi)

Physical exercise combined with drills and discipline is seen as having rehabilitative value by some policymakers and program managers. Shock incarceration, according to Donald J. Hengesh, director of Special Alternatives Incarceration in Michigan, teaches inmates "self-esteem, self-discipline, self-responsibility and how to work...more importantly [the program] push[es] these individuals to achieve at levels that they never knew they could achieve at before."(2,p.3)

Some programs have added confidence-building exercises, and several require participants to quit smoking. North Carolina includes a Ropes Challenge program, which works first on building group skills such as getting a team over a 12 foot wall, then on individual confidence building such as walking a balance beam suspended 30 feet in the air. In Louisiana, program participants in the Orleans Parish are able to run 12 miles upon completion of the program.(1,p.23)

Most programs do not rely solely on military drills for their rehabilitation, many also include drug and alcohol counseling, reality therapy, individual counseling, literacy training and other pre-release programs. In New York, offenders are placed in a therapeutic community emphasizing community living and socialization skills.(1,p.5) Education also is emphasized in the New York program, with offenders required to spend 12 hours per week in classes. A 1990 report of the New York State Department of Correctional Services, Division of Program Planning, Research and Evaluation, said the academic achievement of boot camp participants is somewhat less than inmates in comparison New York facilities, but boot camp inmates both start with more skill deficiencies and spend less time in the program.(4,pp.35-36) Although many states' boot camp programs offer education, at least two states offer no adult basic education because of the difficulty in doing so in any meaningful way in the short period of time offenders are in the boot camp program.(1,p.27)

At least 10 state statutes specify that offenders receive drug and alcohol education or treatment in boot camps. As mentioned earlier, in New Mexico and Wisconsin certain drug offenders are targeted for the program. In Tennessee, however, some drug offenders are statutorily excluded.

Some states provide considerable pre-release assistance and direction. For example, in Maryland, parole agents visit the offenders before they are released, examine their home environments and make arrangements for offenders to meet with job placement assistance counselors. In at least one state, DOC officials recommend to the sentencing judge that drug offenders be required to attend out-patient drug counseling upon release, and in a few other states the statute specifies that drug offenders be sent to drug treatment or educational programs upon release. Two states--Indiana and Wisconsin--statutorily require drug treatment upon release from boot camp.

Cost Issues

Many boot camps are set up on the grounds of existing correctional facilities and share kitchen, medical and administrative services, contributing to cost-efficient start-up. However, per diem costs may be as much or more than standard prison because of higher staff to inmate ratios.(1,p.16)

The 1989 NIJ study indicated that cost savings come primarily from the shorter terms participants serve. For states to save money, the researchers conclude, they must admit inmates who otherwise would have served longer prison terms. Florida data show that time served in boot camps is about 215 days shorter than what participants would have spent in prison, suggesting savings to the state.(3,p.22) In New York, a 1990 report by the Department of Correctional Services research division estimated that despite higher per diem costs than other prison facilities, a total savings of \$55.6 million was realized for 1,158 boot camp participants. This includes an

estimated \$36.6 million saved in capital construction and \$19.0 million saved in care and custody costs, mostly because inmates were housed for a shorter time.(4,pp.33-34)

A 1990 report by the South Carolina State Reorganization Commission for the state legislature examined the criminal histories of the offenders in the boot camp program to determine how many offenders were actually being diverted from prison and whether any offenders were being diverted from probation. Of the 664 offenders who were placed in the boot camp program between July 1987 and January 1989, 244 were diverted from prison and 420 were diverted from probation. Still, the net cost savings of diverting 244 offenders from prison, after taking into account the costs added by placing 420 probation-bound offenders into boot camps, was determined to be \$1.4 million.

None of the cost analyses known have attempted to compute the return-to-crime factor into costs. Perhaps eventually, fiscal studies will combine recidivism data with cost data and analysis of who is being diverted into boot camp programs.

EVALUATIONS AND OUTCOMES

Whether or not boot camps meet the intended objective of rehabilitation of the offender is also an important policy consideration. To date, however, most outcome analyses are either anecdotal, short-term or inconclusive.

Studies by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) of the U.S. Department of Justice in 1989 and the U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO) in 1988 concluded that available data are not sufficient to support the theory that boot camps reduce recidivism, overcrowding or prison costs.(1,p.35)(5,p.1)

The NIJ study looked at recidivism rates for graduates of boot camps in Georgia and Oklahoma and found them to be about the same as those of offenders released from prison. In fact, the Georgia DOC found that after a three year follow-up, 38.5 percent of the offenders who participated in boot camp returned to prison, compared to 38 percent recidivism of released prison inmates. Oklahoma found that almost half the boot camp graduates had returned to prison compared to 28 percent in a comparison group of prison inmates over a 29-month period.(1,p.4)

A few states also have tracked the return to crime or subsequent incarceration of boot camp participants. The Florida Department of Corrections released a study in 1989 of their program showing that boot camp graduates had a re-incarceration rate of 5.59 percent versus 7.75 percent for a comparison group; however, the study only contained data for a 13-month period.(3,p.ii)

A 1990 report of the South Carolina State Reorganization Commission showed that among 437 boot camp participants, 16 percent have had a subsequent conviction or had their probation revoked for a technical violation. Of these convictions and violations, 97 percent occurred during the first 12 months after completing boot camp. The most recent study, based on 1984 data, of recidivism for all people released (including all crimes and criminal histories) in that state showed a 16 percent recidivism rate for one year.(6,p.24)

The New York Department of Correctional Services research division report of 1990 on the state's Shock program said, "Despite being incarcerated for shorter periods of time, the Shock graduates appear to be returning at a rate similar to a selected comparable group of inmates...." But the report also notes that Shock graduates come back for offenses less serious than the comparison group, and more often for rule violations rather than for convictions on new crimes.(4,p.51-52) Georgia, Louisiana and New York are currently conducting studies and several other states have indicated they will be tracking recidivism rates as well.

Several states require the department of corrections (DOC) to report to the legislature on the progress of the boot camp programs. In Colorado, for example, the DOC is to provide a report that includes such information as: whether offenders are being diverted from probation or prison, whether bed space is being saved, and whether the recidivism rate for graduates of the program are equal to or lower than that of similar offenders committed to the DOC.

The National Institute of Justice currently is working on a multi-site survey to evaluate seven boot camp programs. The evaluation will address selection decisions, community supervision upon release, program characteristics and program location; however, the outcome of the study is not expected to be decisive. The study should be released by early next year.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance has offered funds to states for boot camp start-up and demonstration. New York and Texas have grants to implement and evaluate effectiveness of boot camps targeted for drug offenders.(7,p.47)

FEDERAL INTEREST AND INCENTIVES

Title XVIII of the federal Crime Control Act of 1990 authorizes \$220 million for "correctional options," including, "four grants in each fiscal year, in various geographical areas throughout the United States, to public agencies for correctional options (including the cost of construction) that provide alternatives to traditional modes of incarceration and offenders release programs." Programs must provide appropriate intervention for young offenders; security and discipline; services such as counseling, drug treatment, education and job training; reduction in criminal recidivism; reduction in correctional costs; and development of industrial and service skills. Also available are grants to public agencies to "establish, operate, and support boot camp prisons."

Priority is given to applicants who show potential for developing or testing innovation alternatives, as well as those that demonstrate overall quality and programming in a boot camp program. States operating over capacity in correctional facilities are also given priority. The law also identifies military facilities that may be used as sites for correctional programs funded under this chapter.

As of January 1991, funds for these grants were not yet appropriated. The Federal Crime Control Act of 1990 also authorizes the Federal Bureau of Prisons to use shock incarceration (boot camp) programs. Title XXX specifies military-style regimented training, discipline and labor, and also requires that appropriate job training, education and drug and alcohol counseling be in place. As yet there are no boot camp facilities operating for federal offenders.(8)

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), in conjunction with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, will develop and test up to three boot camps for juvenile offenders, with awards to be made in April 1991 for 18-month test sites. In addition, the National Institute of Justice will fund an independent evaluation of the OJJDP programs, also to begin in 1991.

CONCLUSION

The lofty goals of reducing prison overcrowding, controlling corrections costs and providing for criminal deterrence and rehabilitation are only marginally achievable through boot camp prison programs.

By shortening the period of incarceration for prison-bound offenders, boot camps can have a minimal effect on prison overcrowding and costs. However, cost savings tend to be elusive in programs requiring special start-up and operational costs, yet which target less than 5 percent of the prison population. It is important to note that programs which target only probation-bound offenders are not likely to realize cost savings nor do they have any effect on prison populations.

Increased justice-system costs may in fact result from sending probation-bound offenders to boot camps.

Real savings, of course, can be realized if boot camp programs are successful in reducing subsequent criminal behavior in participants. As yet, however, long-term, comprehensive recidivism evaluations are absent from an evaluation of whether boot camps are good policy. Ultimately, an objective analysis of programs' rehabilitative value compared to or in combination with drug treatment, work and education programs, likely will be key to determining success or failure.

In current practice, boot camps do respond to the need for intermediate sanctions tougher than probation and which depart significantly from traditional prison by stressing offender accountability and change. A corrections leader has said boot camps are the "first sexy idea" corrections has had in almost two decades, and therefore should be given time to develop and be refined. Others have warned that military drills without attention to the social ills of illiteracy, unemployment and drug abuse are a wasted effort.

As with most state initiatives, considerable variation is seen in how states have designed and operated boot camp programs. Their experiences, as highlighted in this document, can begin to guide policymakers' decisions on future use of boot camps as a sentencing option.

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Appendix A State Statute Specifications for Boot Camps

State	Amount of Legislative Direction	Offender Eligibility Requirements	Prison Alternative/Enhanced Probation	Distinctive Program Features	Who Has Discretion to Select Candidates?
Alabama Ala. Code §15-18-6 (1989)	Moderate	List crimes not eligible. sentence of 15 years or less	PA	Unspecified	Court upon consultation with DOC, retained jurisdiction
Arizona Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. §13-915 (West 1989)	Moderate	Age, never been incarcerated as adult, no physical impairments, no contagious disease	EP	Academic education	Court - condition of intensive probation
Arkansas Ark. Stat. Ann. §12-28-701 to 705 (1989)	Minimal	Unspecified	PA	Unspecified	DOC
Colorado Colo. Rev. Stat. Art. 17.27.7 (1990)	Moderate	Age, no violent, no previous sentence in a correctional facility, free of physical & mental defects	PA	Educational & vocational assessment & training, job seeking skills, health education, drug/alcohol education & treatment.	Executive director referred to sentencing court upon completion for sentence reduction
Connecticut Conn. Gen. Stat. §18-101c (1989)	Moderate	Age, convicted of other than a class A felony, no physical or mental limitations	EP	Community work, job skills application & communication, separate from general inmate population, judge may require education, employment, restitution, approved residence upon release.	Court
Florida Fla. Stat. Ann. §958.04 (West 1990)	Moderate to Considerable	Age, crime is a felony if committed before 21st birthday, not previously classified under this statute, lists ineligible crimes, no physical limitations, not previously incarcerated.	PA	Training in decisionmaking, personal development, drug counseling, rehabilitation programs	Court commits to custody of DOC, DOC requests sentencing court approval
Georgia Ga. Code Ann. §42-8-35.1 (1989)	Minimal	Age, no contagious disease, not physically or mentally handicapped	EP	Unspecified	Court - with DOC approval
Illinois Ill. Ann. Stat. ch. 38, §1003A-1-1 to §1003A-1-4 §1005-6.3 to 3.4 (1990)	Moderate	Age, never imprisoned as adult for felony, lists crimes not eligible, sentenced to imprisonment of 5 years or less, no mental disorder or disability, written consent.	PA	Drug counseling, mandatory supervised release	Court - upon its independent assessment
Indiana Ind. Code Ann. §11-14 (1990)	Considerable	Age, male, committed to DOC to serve max. sentence of not more than eight years, suspendable sentence, no previous conviction or incarceration, not previously in a military or correctional boot camp, not mentally impaired.	PA	Separate from general inmate population, skills for living and rehabilitation, job skills, treatment for drug/alcohol abuse & emotional or mental problems, education - remedial & GED, vocational assessment, transition program includes education, counseling, community service, drug/alcohol treatment, assisted reintegration.	Committed to DOC, DOC reports to court, court may recommend offender but still must be approved by DOC, voluntary or not.
Kansas Kan. Stat. Ann. §75-32.127 (1989)	Minimal	Unspecified	Unspecified	Unspecified	Court
Louisiana La. Rev. Stat. Ann. C.Cr.P. Art. 901.1 (West 1990)	Considerable	First offender, suspended sentence of seven years or less as hard labor, has probation revoked on technical violation, otherwise eligible for parole, 1st or 2nd felony, never served time in a state prison, voluntary.	PA	Intensive parole supervision upon release	Sentenced to Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections, court recommends or Div. of Probation & Parole refers to court.

State	Amount of Legislative Direction	Offender Eligibility Requirements	Prison Alternative/ Enhanced Probation	Disruptive Program Features	Who has Discretion to Select Candidates?
Michigan Mich. Stat. Ann. §28.2356(3-5) & §28.1133(2) (Callahan 1990)	Minimal to Moderate	Age, never served sentence of imprisonment, likely to be sentenced to imprisonment, not physically or mentally handicapped.	PA	Unspecified	Court - with consent of offender
Missouri Mo. Ann. Stat. §217.378 (Vernon 1991)	Minimal to Moderate	Age, on felony probation, violated probation, no prior felony conviction.	PA	Unspecified	Court
Nevada Nev. Rev. Stat. §209.356 (1989)	Moderate	Age, male, convicted of nonviolent felony, never incarcerated for more than 6 months, otherwise eligible for probation.	EP	Training in recognition & prevention of drug/alcohol abuse, stress management, prepare for & obtain job.	Court returned to court upon completion
New Hampshire N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §651 (1989)	Minimal	Unspecified	PA	Intensive community supervision	Court upon recommendation of DOC
New Mexico N.M. Stat. Ann. §31-18-22 & §33-1-17 (1990)	Moderate to Considerable	Adult male & female offenders, lists ineligible crimes, DOC to adopt regulations for screening, voluntary	PA	Substance abuse counseling & treatment, GED prep, training in decisionmaking & personal development & pre-release skills.	Court upon recommendation of corrections department.
New York N.Y. Corr. Law §665-667 (McKinney 1990)	Minimal to Moderate	Age, within 3 years of parole, lists ineligible crimes, must volunteer	PA	6 months, rehabilitation therapy	Screening committee requests answer from court approving or disapproving, court must respond within 25 days or automatically approved.
Ohio 118th Gen'l Assembly §5120.031 (1990)	Considerable	Age, convicted of or pleaded guilty to 3rd or 4th degree felony, lists ineligible crimes, never sentenced to 30 days or more in reform or penal institution, nonviolent	PA	Substance abuse education, employment & social skills, psychological treatment, GED prep, 30-60 days in halfway house with self help & GED prep, intensive supervision parole for remainder of sentence.	Judge sessions to Dept. of Rehabilitation & Correction, progress reports to sentencing court.
South Carolina S.C. Code Ann. §24-21-475 (Law, Co-op 1986)	Minimal	Age, convicted of nonviolent offense for which a five years or more sentence can be imposed, not physically or mentally handicapped, no contagious diseases.	PA	Unspecified	Judge - as condition of probation
Tennessee Tenn. Code Ann. §40-20-201 to 207 & §40-28-130 (1989)	Minimal	Age, not physically or mentally handicapped, prison or probation of 6 years or less, no contagious diseases, lists ineligible crimes.	PA & EP	Treatment programs	Judge - as condition of probation
Texas Tex. Code of Crim. Proc. Ann. Art. 42.12 (Vernon 1990)	Minimal	Otherwise eligible for probation, age, not physically or mentally handicapped, never been incarcerated for felony.	PA	Unspecified	Court
Virginia Va. Code §19.2 - 316.1 & §53.1 - 67.1 (1990)	Considerable	Age, nonviolent felony, never been sentenced to incarceration as adult voluntary	PA	Counseling, remedial education, drug education, vocational assessment, upon release employment, vocational or other educational programs may be required, voluntary withdrawal.	Court orders commitment to DOC for evaluation, DOC recommends
Wisconsin Wis. Stat. Ann. §302.043 (West 1990)	Moderate	Must volunteer, age, already incarcerated, has substance abuse problem, no psychological, physical or mental limitations, lists ineligible crimes	PA	Practical development counseling, substance abuse treatment & education, intensive supervision parole program for drug abusers.	DOC
Wyoming Wyo. Stat. §7-3-1003 (1989)	Minimal	Is entering prison in state penitentiary, age, no previous incarcerations, lists ineligible crimes.	PA	Separation from general inmate population	Board of Charities & Reform