

LEGISLATIVE BILL 999

Approved by the Governor April 16, 2014

Introduced by Ashford, 20; Avery, 28; Campbell, 25; Coash, 27; Conrad, 46; Cook, 13; Davis, 43; Harms, 48; Krist, 10; McGill, 26; Mello, 5; Nordquist, 7; Wallman, 30.

FOR AN ACT relating to the state correctional system; to state findings; to provide powers and duties for the Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services; and to require a program statement relating to the establishment of a Hastings Correctional Behavioral Health Treatment Center as prescribed.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that a need exists for additional behavioral health treatment beds for inmates in the state correctional system. In order to follow an orderly and reasonable process based upon defined and documented need and an analysis of the utilization of existing facilities, the Legislature authorizes the Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services to study the feasibility of the establishment of a Hastings Correctional Behavioral Health Treatment Center at the Hastings Regional Center.

(2) (a) The Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services shall prepare a complete program statement for the Hastings Correctional Behavioral Health Treatment Center, prepared in accordance with the Procedural Manual for Capital Construction Projects, as approved by the state building division of the Department of Administrative Services. The state building division shall assist the Department of Health and Human Services in the preparation and submission of the program statement.

(b) The program statement shall plan for the long-term needs of the mentally ill inmates in the correctional system as well as inmates who have drug and alcohol addictions. The intent is to provide a facility for up to two hundred inmates in one or more buildings at the Hastings Regional Center renovated or constructed to meet the needs of the program. The program statement shall identify the classification of inmates to be placed in the center, the programs needed to provide mental health and substance abuse treatment, and the capital cost of renovation needed to fully support the program objectives. The program statement shall estimate building renovation costs, staffing costs, and operational costs for the center along with a proposed project schedule.

(c) The completed program statement shall be submitted electronically to the Governor and Legislature by December 15, 2014.