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RECOMMENDATION

Standing Committees of the Legislature

The Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on Reducing Recidivism and Removing Impediments to Ex-Offender Employment recommends that letters be sent by Chair Darling and Vice-Chair Hutton to the chairpersons of the appropriate standing committees in the Senate and Assembly, requesting that the standing committees do the following:

- Review the Department of Corrections' (DOC's) current educational, career, and technical training practices in order to match this training with current workplace needs, such as "soft skills."
- Examine whether DOC should provide reentry planning to inmates prior to release from prison earlier than current practice.
- Study the relationship between DOC institutions, local technical schools, and regional employers to make recommendations that encourage collaboration.
- Review DOC policies regarding the placement of recently released ex-offenders to encourage continued employment in jobs attained by individuals while incarcerated.
- Review DOC's fraternization policy and its impact on reentry for recently released ex-offenders.
- Study the collateral consequences of conviction related to occupational licensing or certification.
- Review occupational licensure application restrictions based upon a criminal conviction.
- Review legislative proposals that (1) allow a court to order the expungement of a criminal court record after successful completion of a sentence, rather than at the time of sentencing; and (2) remove the age limitation for determining eligibility for expungement.

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- Study options to expand apprenticeship opportunities for individuals both prior to and immediately following release from prison.
- Review laws pertaining to the community supervision revocation process and the amount of time spent in prison after revocation.
- Study the impact of providing inmates with earned-time credit for time in prison and sentence credit for time on community supervision.
- Review the impact that court-imposed financial obligations have on recidivism and victim compensation.
- Study the use of websites that extort a fee to remove arrest and conviction records.
- Review current laws and DOC policies to: (1) screen each inmate at the time of entry into the prison system to determine whether the person has a Wisconsin driver's license and whether the inmate needs to complete a Driver Safety Plan; (2) identify barriers to obtaining a driver's license for each person determined to not have one at the time of entry into the prison system; and (3) explore pathways to obtaining a driver's license and for completion of a driver safety plan prior to release from prison.
- Review current laws and DOC policies and programs in order to assess whether the DOC can conduct evidence-based Driver Safety Plan assessments and provide treatment recommended by the assessment for inmates prior to their reentry into the community, regardless of the county of conviction.