2019 HOUSE JUDICIARY

HCR 3015
Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Directing the Legislative Management to consider studying best practices to reduce offender recidivism, increase educational opportunities, prepare incarcerated offenders to rejoin their communities, and encourage communities to reintegrate previously incarcerated individuals into society.

Minutes:

Chairman Koppelman: Opened the hearing on HCR 3015.

Rep. Satrom: Our state has been on the path of justice reinvestment and in many cases this involves getting appropriate for people who have addictions and mental health issues and to help people that are non-violent out of our prisons. Ninety-five percent of the people in jails today will return to our communities. A significant percentage will reoffend. Somewhere between fifty and seventy-five percent. Private and public groups are working to address this issue. We have about 1400 inmates are released annually. Reintegration is really difficult. My wife and I have been working with people in jails primarily for decades. Sometimes there are housing and transportation issues and support systems, which once they are labeled, is very difficult. Employment opportunities; many of the people my wife and I deal with read on about a third grade level, if that. There are a lot of challenging dynamics. At the same time, we have an employment crisis. We need a lot of people and we have lots of job openings. Over the last thirty-five years I have hired dozens of people that have come out of jails and prisons and had a lot of great experiences. Discussed reason for the study and hopefully get people out of their silos and look at things from a different perspective to share; research best practices and discover and develop opportunities for collaboration. When we positively impact a man or woman who is getting out of jail or prison we are affecting their families and generations in a positive way. That is what the intention of this is.

Rep. Jones: You say you have had positive employment working with them. How many would you estimate have you done that with? How many bad experiences have you had?

Rep. Satrom: If there is anything negative I have blocked it out of my mind. I hired a young welder and someone said you should know the guy is known to steal and a drug problem? So I went to him and I said I heard some negative reports about your past, but everything I see here is really good and I just wanted you to know I trust you and believe in you. Right
now he is the manager of a company. There are some people I won’t give a chance to because you have a sense of people after working with the public so long.

Opposition: None

Neutral: None

Hearing closed.

**Do Pass Motion Made by Rep. Jones; Seconded by Rep. Magrum**

Discussion:

**Rep. Hanson:** I appreciate what Rep. Satrom has brought forward and I think this study could look at some great non-profit examples throughout the state and how we could create that across the state.

**Rep. McWilliams:** I had a nice speech last week on the community transitional housing bill and I would like to be able to prepare an amendment to be able to tack that onto this bill as part of a study. That bill failed in the chamber by one vote. I think it fits well into what this study is.

**Do Pass Motion Made by Rep. Jones and Seconded by Rep. Magrum is withdrawn.**

**Chairman K. Koppelman:** I would suggest an additional amendment while you are working on that plus reintegration back into this too. We will hold this until Monday for amendments.

Closed.
2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Prairie Room, State Capitol

HCR 3015
3/4/2019
33077

☐ Subcommittee
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: DeLores D. Shimek

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Directing the Legislative management to consider studying best practices to reduce offender recidivism, increase educational opportunities, prepare incarcerated offenders to rejoin their communities, and encourage communities to reintegrate previously incarcerated individuals into society.

Minutes:

Chairman Koppelman: Opened the meeting on HCR 3015.

Rep. McWilliams: (Attachment #1) Went over the proposed amendment. We just added the transitional housing program part to it.

Motion made to move the amendment 19.3061.01002 by Rep. McWilliams; Seconded by Vice Chairman Karls

Discussion:

Chairman K. Koppelman: It is talking about the study consider the establishment and implementation so it is including this idea in the study. Since we are also looking at this for another resolution we thought it would be appropriate to add it here as well since reentry is one of the major areas that the Justice Center has done good work on around the nation.

Voice vote carried.

Do Pass as Amended Motion Made by Rep. Hanson; Seconded by Rep. Vetter

Discussion:

Roll Call Vote: 13 Yes 0 No 1 Absent Carrier: Rep. McWilliams

Rep. Jones: Has there ever been a discussion on paying wages for people who are getting re-integrated where the state has helped to pay some of their wages to encourage those people?
**Rep. Satrom:** I believe there is something called the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit Program and that is a 25% or 50% tax credit for the first year and then reduces after that.

Closed.
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3015

Page 1, line 3, after the comma insert "establish and implement a community transitional housing program, including independent host homes,"

Page 1, line 10, after the third comma insert "short-term housing,"

Page 1, line 22, after the comma insert "establish and implement a community transitional housing program, including independent host homes,"

Page 1, line 23, replace the period with "; and"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in conducting the study, the Legislative Management may seek technical assistance, as appropriate, from the Council of State Governments' Justice Center; and"

Renumber accordingly
Date: 3/4/2019
Roll Call Vote # ___1___

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
HB __3015____

House  **Judiciary** Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description:  19.3061.01002; establish and implement a community transitional housing program, including independent host homes.

Recommendation:  ☒ Adopt Amendment
☐ Do Pass  ☐ Do Not Pass  ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended  ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
☐ As Amended
☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ Place on Consent Calendar
☐ Reconsider

Other Actions:

Motion Made By  **Rep. McWilliams** Seconded By  **Rep. Karls**

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Total  (Yes) ______________________  No ____________________________

Absent

Floor Assignment

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Voice vote carried.
2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
HB __3015____

Motion Made By _Rep_. _H_a_n_so_n  Seconded By _Rep_. _V_e_t_t_e_r

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Total (Yes) 13  No 0
Absent 1

Floor Assignment _Rep_. _Mc_W_i_l_l_i_a_m_s

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:
REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3015: Judiciary Committee (Rep. K. Koppelman, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3015 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 3, after the comma insert "establish and implement a community transitional housing program, including independent host homes,"

Page 1, line 10, after the third comma insert "short-term housing,"

Page 1, line 22, after the comma insert "establish and implement a community transitional housing program, including independent host homes,"

Page 1, line 23, replace the period with "; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in conducting the study, the Legislative Management may seek technical assistance, as appropriate, from the Council of State Governments' Justice Center; and"

Renumber accordingly
A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying best practices to reduce offender recidivism, increase educational opportunities, prepare incarcerated offenders to rejoin their communities, establish and implement a community transitional housing program, including independent host homes, and encourage communities to reintegrate previously incarcerated individuals into society.

Chair Larson opens the hearing on HCR 3015. Senator Osland was absent.

Bernie Satrom, District 12 Representative, testifies in favor

Representative Satrom: Last session I had a bill regarding sexual abuse of children and a task force. That went really well and fortunately, the continuing saga of that is moving forward in a great way. It’s amazing when you can get all of the people in the same room to share information and passions. My wife started in jail ministry about 20 years ago. There’s a lot of young men who had made some bad decisions and quite often did not have a very good, male role model in their lives, and I hired them to be involved in my business. I realize the impact that that had. Every one of them that I’m aware of are very successful, some are managers of significant entities. Many of them can only read at a 3rd or 4th grade level and don’t have good support or a positive, male role model. Then what happens is they get out of jail and have this big scarlet letter on them in a sense. I think one of the big components is we can do all the right things, but if we can’t get the community to accept and integrate them, then we have a serious problem.

Senator Luick: Is there anything in the community today that helps these individuals?

Representative Satrom: There are several things such as the F5 program. They probably process 10-20 people a year, yet we have 1,400 coming out. If they’re accepted within that group but yet they’re not accepted in the community, how do we get them involved? We are doing good things, but we’re at the beginning of this discussion. That’s the reason for this.
I’m hoping that we can have that discussion. Someone had a bill regarding community transitional housing. Housing is a big deal, and we’ve made some strides by allowing for extra deposits for instance, but it’s not enough.

**Vice Chairman Dwyer:** Was your prison ministry connected with an organization?

**Representative Satrom:** I think originally it was Gideons, then a woman took over that component, and my wife has been handling it since her death. I work with the Gideons.

**Senator Myrdal:** Are you aware of Chuck Colson’s prison ministries in North Dakota?

**Representative Satrom:** I am a member of the prison fellowship group of legislatures nationally that deals with these issues. However, I’m not aware of anything that we’re doing here. There are some cases where people are coming out of prison and have become ordained ministers. Those people are uniquely qualified in dealing with people like that; it’s a tremendous thing.

**Chair Larson** closes the hearing on HCR 3015.

**Senator Myrdal:** Motions for a Do Pass.
**Senator Luick:** Seconds.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 5 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent. Motion carries.

**Senator Myrdal** will carry the bill.
Date: 3/18/2019
Roll Call Vote: 1

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3015

Senate Judiciary Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: ________________________________

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment
☑ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation
☐ As Amended ☐ Refer to Appropriations
☐ Place on Consent Calendar ☐ Reconsider
☐ Other Actions:

Motion Made By Senator Myrdal Seconded By Senator Luick

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Total (Yes) 5 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Senator Myrdal

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:
REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HCR 3015, as engrossed: Judiciary Committee (Sen. D. Larson, Chairman)
recommends DO PASS (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
Engrossed HCR 3015 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3015

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