

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S2/18/25 S3/11/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 144

By: Senator B. King

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BACKLOG OF INMATES AWAITING TRANSFER TO THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION; TO PROVIDE FOR A DESIGNATED DIAGNOSTIC INTAKE FACILITY; TO ALLOW THE BOARD OF CORRECTIONS TO ENTER INTO COUNTY JAIL-STATE INMATE CLOSE-TO-HOME PARTNERSHIPS WITH CERTAIN COUNTIES TO CONSTRUCT, EXPAND, OR IMPROVE A FACILITY TO HOUSE INMATES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE BACKLOG OF INMATES AWAITING TRANSFER TO THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION; TO PROVIDE FOR A DESIGNATED DIAGNOSTIC INTAKE FACILITY; AND TO CREATE COUNTY JAIL-STATE INMATE CLOSE-TO-HOME PARTNERSHIPS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 28, Subchapter 1 is amended to add additional sections to read as follows:

12-28-110. Facility to house county jail backlog.

(a) The Board of Corrections may purchase, fund, construct, expand, or improve a facility to house inmates sentenced to the Division of Correction who are awaiting transfer to a prison:

(1) In a county that is one (1) of the eight (8) counties that contribute the most inmates to the total inmate population in the custody of the division; or



(2) Upon the approval of the quorum court of the county, in a county that adjoins one (1) of the eight (8) counties that contribute the most inmates to the total inmate population in the custody of the division.

(b) The division shall determine the eight (8) eligible counties under subsection (a) of this section based upon the total inmate population that existed as of January 1, 2025.

12-28-111. Diagnostic intake facility.

(a) The Division of Correction, with the approval of the Board of Corrections, shall provide a correctional facility in Washington County, Benton County, Crawford County, or Sebastian County to carry out the diagnostic intake process for new adult inmates.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section does not prohibit the use of another correctional facility to carry out the diagnostic intake process for new adult inmates.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 41, Subchapter 5, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

12-41-512. County jail-state inmate close-to-home sentencing partnership.

(a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the Board of Corrections and one (1) or more county may enter into a county jail-state inmate close-to-home sentencing partnership agreement to fund, construct, expand, or improve a facility to house inmates of the jail or to house inmates sentenced to the Division of Correction who are awaiting transfer to a prison.

(b) An agreement under subsection (a) of this section is subject to the following requirements:

(1)(A) At least one (1) county entering the county jail-state inmate close-to-home sentencing partnership agreement shall be:

(i) One (1) of the eight (8) counties that contribute the most inmates to the total population in the custody of the division; or

(ii) A county that adjoins one (1) of the eight (8) counties that contribute the most inmates to the total population in the custody of the division.

(B) The division shall determine the eight (8) eligible counties based upon the total inmate population that existed as of January 1, 2025;

(2) If more than (1) county enters into the county jail-state inmate close-to-home sentencing partnership agreement, all counties entering the agreement shall adjoin each other; and

(3) The county jail-state inmate close-to-home sentencing partnership agreement shall be approved by a vote of the quorum court of each county entering the agreement.

(c) In addition to any sources of funding provided by law, the costs associated with funding, constructing, expanding, or improving a facility pursuant to a county jail-state inmate close-to-home sentencing partnership agreement under this section may be provided from funds authorized by the General Assembly.

(d) A county jail-state inmate close-to-home sentencing partnership agreement under this section must be approved by the quorum court of a county before June 30, 2027.

/s/B. King