

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

As Engrossed: S2/18/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 144

5 By: Senator B. King
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BACKLOG OF INMATES AWAITING
10 TRANSFER TO THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION; TO ALLOW *THE*
11 *BOARD OF CORRECTIONS TO ENTER INTO COUNTY JAIL-STATE*
12 *INMATE CLOSE-TO-HOME SENTENCING PARTNERSHIPS WITH*
13 *CERTAIN COUNTIES TO CONSTRUCT, EXPAND, OR IMPROVE A*
14 *FACILITY TO HOUSE INMATES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

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18 *CONCERNING THE BACKLOG OF INMATES*
19 *AWAITING TRANSFER TO THE DIVISION OF*
20 *CORRECTION; AND TO ALLOW THE BOARD OF*
21 *CORRECTIONS TO ENTER INTO COUNTY JAIL-*
22 *STATE INMATE CLOSE-TO-HOME SENTENCING*
23 *PARTNERSHIPS.*

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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 28, Subchapter 1, is*
28 *amended to add an additional section to read as follows:*

29 *12-28-110. Facility to house county jail backlog.*

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

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

36 *(2) Upon the approval of the quorum court of the county, in a*



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

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

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

9 12-41-512. County jail-state inmate close-to-home sentencing
10 partnership.

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

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

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

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

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

27 (B) The division shall determine the eight (8) eligible
28 counties based upon the total inmate population that existed as of January 1,
29 2025;

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

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

36 (c) In addition to any sources of funding provided by law, the costs

1 associated with funding, constructing, expanding, or improving a facility
2 pursuant to a county jail-state inmate close-to-home sentencing partnership
3 agreement under this section may be provided from funds authorized by the
4 General Assembly.

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

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/s/B. King