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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 754

02/04/2019 Authored by Becker-Finn, Christensen, Tabke, Wolgamott, Dehn and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to corrections; establishing the Mama's Bus pilot project to provide parent
1.3 and child bonding and literacy for incarcerated women and their children;
1.4 appropriating money.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. MAMA'S BUS PILOT PROJECT.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Grant. The commissioner of corrections shall award a grant to the
1.8 unPrison Project to develop and implement the Mama's Bus pilot project to decrease the
1.9 risk of recidivism of women incarcerated at the Minnesota Correctional Facility - Shakopee
1.10 and to provide a stable nurturing relationship for the women's children by providing
1.11 transportation for mother and child visits organized around reading activities to improve
1.12 inmate and child literacy and parent and child bonding. The pilot project is from July 1,
1.13 2019, through June 30, 2022.

1.14 Subd. 2. Goals. The goals of the pilot project are to:

- 1.15 (1) decrease the number of children requiring community, county, and state services;
1.16 (2) help close the achievement gap of children in schools;
1.17 (3) promote positive behavioral changes of children in the classroom, community, and
1.18 home;
1.19 (4) decrease recidivism of incarcerated women;
1.20 (5) increase the number of women contributing to the community; and
1.21 (6) break the generational cycle of incarceration in families.

2.1 Subd. 3. **Evaluation; report.** By September 1 of each year of the pilot project, the
2.2 unPrison Project must report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of
2.3 representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction over corrections on the progress of
2.4 the pilot project and by September 1, 2022, on the development, implementation, impact,
2.5 and outcomes of the pilot project.

2.6 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.7 \$316,309 in fiscal year 2020 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
2.8 of corrections for a grant to the unPrison Project for the Mama's Bus pilot project under
2.9 section 1. This appropriation is available until expended.