

88th House District
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Members of the Community Revitalization committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 393. I am honored to sponsor this legislation along with Ranking Member Brewer. House Bill 393 aims to remove a significant and often overlooked barrier that individuals face when reentering our communities from the criminal justice system.

House Bill 315 in the 135th General Assembly enabled the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections to provide certain services to inmates prior to their release. While visiting a Community Based Corrections Center last year, I was advised that this legislation did not include them, and they asked if we could address that oversight. Ranking member Brewer and I are working collaboratively to accomplish that today.

A recurring challenge for individuals released from incarceration is the lack of a valid state-issued ID card. Something as simple as not having identification can quickly become a serious barrier to successful reintegration. This leaves them vulnerable to unnecessary hardship and delays in rebuilding their lives. As a result, they may become discouraged, disengaged, or worse, find themselves at greater risk of reoffending. If we are serious about reducing recidivism, promoting public safety, and helping offenders successfully reintegrate into society, then we must make sure they have the basic tools to do so: starting with valid identification. House Bill 393 takes a practical and targeted approach. It enables community-based correctional facilities to assist individuals in obtaining a valid state ID before they are released.

The benefits of this bill are numerous. First and foremost, it gives individuals a fair shot at reintegrating. Having a valid ID increases employability, access to services, and the ability to comply with legal or supervisory obligations. It also affirms the dignity of those who are trying to turn their lives around. This legislation will support better outcomes for reentry programming.

House Bill 393 provides Community Based Correctional Facilities with the tools they are requesting and our rehabilitated citizens with the tools they need. This is

not a new concept but rather an extension of what the DRC is already doing for its population. I encourage your full support for this meaningful legislation.

I now yield to my joint-sponsor, Representative Brewer, and then we will be happy to answer your questions.



State Representative Gary Click