

CHAPTER 904

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Referred to in §216A.136, 218.95, 229.1, 901.1, 901A.2, 902.1, 903B.1, 903B.2

This chapter not enacted as a part of this title;
transferred from chapter 246 in Code 1993
See §218.95 for provisions pertaining to construction of
synonymous terms

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SUBCHAPTER I

ADMINISTRATION GENERALLY

904.101 Definitions.

For purposes of [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “Board” means the board of corrections established in [section 904.104](#).

2. “Community-based correctional program” means correctional programs and services, under the direction of a district director and the department, including but not limited to an intermediate criminal sanctions program in accordance with the corrections continuum in [section 901B.1](#), designed to supervise and assist individuals who are charged with or have been convicted of a felony, an aggravated misdemeanor or a serious misdemeanor, or who are on probation or parole in lieu of or as a result of a sentence of incarceration imposed upon conviction of any of these offenses, or who are contracted to the district department for supervision and housing while on work release. A community-based correctional program shall be designed by a district department, under the direction and control of the department, in a manner that provides services in a manner free of disparities based upon an individual’s race or ethnic origin.

3. “Community-based corrections facility” means property or buildings owned or operated by the department for a community-based correctional program.

4. “Department” means the Iowa department of corrections established in [section 904.102](#).

5. “Director” means the director of the department.

6. “District advisory board” means the advisory board of a district department.

7. “District department” means a judicial district department of correctional services established under [section 904.104A](#).

8. “District director” means the director of a district department, appointed by the director under [section 904.301A](#).

[83 Acts, ch 96, §2, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.1

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.101

C93, §904.101

[2024 Acts, ch 1182, §57](#)

Section amended and editorially internally renumbered

904.102 Department established — institutions.

The Iowa department of corrections is established to be responsible for the control, treatment, and rehabilitation of offenders committed under law to the following institutions:

1. Iowa correctional institution for women.
2. Anamosa state penitentiary.
3. Iowa state penitentiary.
4. Iowa medical and classification center.
5. North central correctional facility at Rockwell City.
6. Mount Pleasant correctional facility.
7. Clarinda correctional facility.
8. Newton correctional facility.
9. Fort Dodge correctional facility.
10. Rehabilitation camps.
11. Other institutions related to an institution in [subsections 1 through 10](#) but not attached to the campus of the main institution as program developments require.
12. Community-based corrections facilities.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §3, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.2

[84 Acts, ch 1184, §1; 84 Acts, ch 1219, §9; 85 Acts, ch 21, §13, 54](#)

CS85, §246.102

C93, §904.102

[97 Acts, ch 130, §2 – 4; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §58](#)

Referred to in [§7E.5, 135.11, 148C.4, 152.1, 263.22, 266.37, 321J.22, 357H.1, 904.101, 904.103, 904.108, 904.301, 904.318, 904.507A](#)

NEW subsection 12

904.103 Responsibilities of department.

The department shall administer the institutions listed in [section 904.102](#). The department shall be responsible to the extent provided for by law for all of the following:

1. Iowa state industries.

2. Jail inspections.
3. Other duties provided for by law.
4. Policies for the operation and conduct of the department and the implementation of all department programs.
5. Adoption of rules in accordance with [chapter 17A](#) as necessary to transact its business and for the administration and exercise of its powers and duties.
6. The approval of the locations for all state institutions which are penal, reformatory, or corrective.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §4, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.3

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.103

C93, §904.103

[2024 Acts, ch 1170, §350; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §59](#)

Section amended and editorially internally renumbered

904.104 Board created.

A board of corrections is created within the department. The board shall consist of seven members appointed by the governor subject to confirmation by the senate. Not more than four of the members shall be from the same political party. Members shall be electors of this state. Members of the board shall serve four-year staggered terms.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §5, 158, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.4

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.104

[92 Acts, ch 1163, §56](#)

C93, §904.104

[93 Acts, ch 46, §4](#)

Referred to in [§904.101](#)

Confirmation, see [§2.32](#)

904.104A Judicial district departments of correctional services established.

1. There is established in each judicial district in this state a judicial district department of correctional services. Each district department shall furnish or contract for those services necessary to provide a community-based correctional program which meets the requirements of the department.

2. The district department is under the direction of the department and shall be administered by a district director employed by the department. A district department is a state agency for purposes of [chapter 669](#).

3. All employees of a district department shall be employees of the department.

[C79, 81, §905.2]

[86 Acts, ch 1172, §3; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §2782; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §82, 93](#)

C2025, §904.104A

Referred to in [§8D.13, 669.2, 708.2B, 904.101, 904.301A](#)

Probation, see [§907.1](#)

Section transferred from §905.2 in Code 2025 pursuant to directive in 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §93

Section amended

904.104B District advisory board — expenses reimbursed.

1. A district advisory board is established for each district department, which shall serve in an advisory capacity to a district director without compensation, and shall be composed as follows:

a. One member shall be appointed annually by a district director from the board of supervisors of each county in the judicial district.

b. The district director shall on or before December 31 appoint two citizen members to serve on the district advisory board for the following calendar year.

2. The district advisory board shall meet as necessary.

3. The members of the district advisory board shall be reimbursed from funds of the district department for travel and other expenses necessarily incurred in attending meetings.

[C79, 81, S81, §905.3; 81 Acts, ch 117, §1243]

86 Acts, ch 1062, §1; 2000 Acts, ch 1057, §18; 2013 Acts, ch 90, §241; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §2783; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §120; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §83, 93

C2025, §904.104B

Section transferred from §905.3 in Code 2025 pursuant to directive in 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §93

See Code editor's note on simple harmonization at the beginning of this Code volume

Section amended

904.105 Board — duties.

The board of corrections shall:

1. Organize annually and select a chairperson and vice chairperson.
2. Provide advice and recommendations to the department regarding policies for the operation and conduct of the department and the implementation of all department programs.
3. Report immediately to the governor any failure by the director of the department to carry out any of the policy decisions or directives of the board.
4. Provide advice and recommendations to the department regarding the budget of the department prior to submission to the governor.
5. Report biennially to the governor a summary of releases recommended, paroles granted, parole revocations, and other information relating to the parole of inmates as the board deems advisable.
6. Provide advice and recommendations to the department regarding rules necessary to transact its business and for the administration and exercise of its powers and duties.
7. Make recommendations from time to time to the governor and the general assembly.
8. Provide advice and recommendations regarding the locations for all state institutions which are penal, reformatory, or corrective.
9. Establish and utilize such ad hoc advisory committees as determined necessary by the board. The board shall establish appointment provisions, membership terms, operating guidelines, and any other operational requirements for committees established pursuant to [this subsection](#). Members of committees established pursuant to [this subsection](#) shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses.
10. Perform other functions as provided by law.

83 Acts, ch 96, §6, 159

CS83, §217A.5

85 Acts, ch 21, §14, 54

CS85, §246.105

86 Acts, ch 1245, §1501

C93, §904.105

2024 Acts, ch 1170, §77, 351, 352

Section amended and editorially internally renumbered

904.105A Duties of district advisory board.

The district advisory board shall:

1. Adopt bylaws and rules for the conduct of district advisory board business.
2. Advise the district director concerning suitable quarters at one or more sites in the district as may be necessary for the district department's community-based correctional program.
3. Recruit and promote local financial support for the district department's community-based correctional program from private sources such as community service funds, business, industrial and private foundations, voluntary agencies, and other lawful sources.

[C79, 81, §905.4; 81 Acts, ch 207, §2]

83 Acts, ch 89, §2; 83 Acts, ch 96, §135, 159; 84 Acts, ch 1244, §4; 91 Acts, ch 267, §420; 2001 Acts, ch 104, §7; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §2784; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §84, 93

C2025, §904.105A

Section transferred from §905.4 in Code 2025 pursuant to directive in 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §93

Section amended

904.106 Meetings — expenses.

Meetings may be called by the chairperson or upon written request of any three members of the board. The chairperson shall preside at all meetings or in the chairperson's absence, the vice chairperson shall preside. The members of the board shall be paid their actual expenses while attending the meetings. Each member of the board may also be able to receive compensation as provided in [section 7E.6](#).

[83 Acts, ch 96, §7, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.6

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.106

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §1502](#)

C93, §904.106

[2010 Acts, ch 1031, §410; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §119](#)

Section amended

904.107 Director — appointment and qualifications.

The chief administrative officer for the department is the director. The director shall be appointed by the governor subject to confirmation by the senate and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. The director shall be qualified in reformatory and prison management, knowledgeable in community-based corrections, and shall possess administrative ability. The director shall also have experience in the field of criminology and discipline and in the supervision of inmates in corrective penal institutions. The director shall not be selected on the basis of political affiliation, and while employed as the director, shall not be a member of a political committee, participate in a political campaign, be a candidate for a partisan elective office, and shall not contribute to a political campaign fund, except that the director may designate on the checkoff portion of the federal income tax return a party or parties to which a contribution is made pursuant to the checkoff. The director shall not hold any other office under the laws of the United States or of this or any state or hold any position for profit and shall devote full time to the duties of office.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §8, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.7

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.107

C93, §904.107

[2017 Acts, ch 144, §12, 14](#)

Confirmation, see [§2.32](#)

904.108 Director — duties, powers.

1. The director shall:

a. Supervise the operations of the institutions under the department's jurisdiction and may delegate the powers and authorities given the director by statute to officers or employees of the department.

b. Supervise state agents whose duties relate primarily to the department.

c. Establish and maintain a program to oversee women's institutional and community corrections programs and to provide community support to ensure continuity and consistency of programs. The person responsible for implementing [this section](#) shall report to the director.

d. Establish and maintain acceptable standards of treatment, training, education, and rehabilitation in the various state penal and corrective institutions which shall include habilitative services and treatment for offenders with an intellectual disability. For the purposes of this paragraph, "*habilitative services and treatment*" means medical, mental health, social, educational, counseling, and other services which will assist a person with an intellectual disability to become self-reliant. However, the director may also provide rehabilitative treatment and services to other persons who require the services. The director shall identify all individuals entering the correctional system who are persons with an intellectual disability, as defined in [section 4.1](#). Identification shall be made by a qualified professional in the area of intellectual disability. In assigning an offender with an intellectual

disability, or an offender with an inadequately developed intelligence or with impaired mental abilities, to a correctional facility, the director shall consider both the program needs and the security needs of the offender. The director shall consult with the department of health and human services in providing habilitative services and treatment to offenders with mental illness or an intellectual disability. The director may enter into agreements with the department of health and human services to utilize mental health institutions and share staff and resources for purposes of providing habilitative services and treatment, as well as providing other special needs programming. Any agreement to utilize mental health institutions and to share staff and resources shall provide that the costs of the habilitative services and treatment shall be paid from state funds. Not later than twenty days prior to entering into any agreement to utilize mental health institution staff and resources, other than the use of a building or facility, for purposes of providing habilitative services and treatment, as well as other special needs programming, the directors of the departments of corrections and health and human services shall each notify the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint appropriations subcommittees that last handled the appropriation for their respective departments of the pending agreement. Use of a building or facility shall require approval of the general assembly if the general assembly is in session or, if the general assembly is not in session, the legislative council may grant temporary authority, which shall be subject to final approval of the general assembly during the next succeeding legislative session.

e. Employ, assign, and reassign personnel as necessary for the performance of duties and responsibilities assigned to the department. Employees shall be selected on the basis of fitness for work to be performed with due regard to training and experience and are subject to [chapter 8A, subchapter IV](#).

f. Establish standards of mental fitness which shall govern the initial recruitment, selection, and appointment of correctional officers. To promote these standards, the director shall by rule require a battery of psychological tests to determine cognitive skills, personality characteristics and suitability of all applicants for a correctional career.

g. Examine all state institutions which are penal, reformatory, or corrective to determine their efficiency for adequate care, custody, and training of their inmates and report the findings to the board.

h. Prepare a budget for the department, subject to the approval of the board, and other reports as required by law.

i. Develop long-range correctional planning and an ongoing five-year corrections master plan. The director shall annually report to the general assembly to inform its members as to the status and content of the planning and master plan.

j. Supervise rehabilitation camps within the state as may be established by the director. Persons committed to institutions under the department may be transferred to the facilities of the camp system and upon transfer shall be subject to the same laws as pertain to the transferring institution.

k. Adopt rules subject to the approval of the board, pertaining to the internal management of institutions and agencies under the director's charge and necessary to carry out the duties and powers outlined in [this section](#).

l. Adopt rules, policies, and procedures, subject to the approval of the board, pertaining to community-based correctional programs, and the supervision of parole and work release.

m. Provide routine administrative and support services to the board of parole.

n. Cooperate with Iowa state university of science and technology to provide, for purposes of agricultural research, development, and testing, the use of resources, including property, facilities, labor, and services, connected with institutions listed in [section 904.102](#). However, use of the resources by the university is subject to approval by the director. Before granting approval, the director shall require that the university compensate the department for the use of the resources, on terms specified by the director.

o. Establish and maintain a correctional training program.

2. The director, with the express approval of the board, may establish for any inmate sentenced pursuant to [section 902.3](#) a furlough program under which inmates sentenced to and confined in any institution under the jurisdiction of the department may be temporarily

released. A furlough for a period not to exceed fourteen days may be granted when an immediate member of an inmate's family is seriously ill or has died, when an inmate is to be interviewed by a prospective employer, or when an inmate is authorized to participate in a training program not available within the institution. Furloughs for a period not to exceed fourteen days may also be granted in order to allow inmates to participate in programs or activities that serve rehabilitative objectives.

3. The director may establish a sales bonus system for the sales representatives for prison industry products. If a sales bonus system is established, the system shall not affect the status of the sales representatives under [chapter 8A, subchapter IV](#).

4. The director may expend moneys from the support allocation of the department as reimbursement for replacement or repair of personal items of the department's employees damaged or destroyed by clients of the department during the employee's tour of duty. However, the reimbursement shall not exceed three hundred dollars for each item. The director shall establish rules in accordance with [chapter 17A](#) to carry out the purpose of [this subsection](#).

5. The director may obtain assistance for the department for construction, facility planning, and project accomplishment with the department of administrative services and by contracting under [chapter 28E](#) for data processing with the department of health and human services or the department of administrative services.

6. The director may charge an inmate a correctional fee for custodial expenses incurred or which may be incurred while the inmate is in the custody of the department. The custodial expenses may include, but are not limited to, board and room, medical and dental fees including any necessary transportation fee not to exceed five dollars per visit, education costs, clothing costs, and the costs of supervision, services, and treatment to the inmate. The correctional fee shall not exceed the actual cost of keeping the inmate in custody. The correctional fees collected pursuant to [this subsection](#) shall be credited as a reimbursement to the appropriate correctional institution. [This subsection](#) does not limit the right of the director to obtain any other remedy authorized by law.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §9, 159](#)

[CS83, §217A.8](#)

[84 Acts, ch 1150, §1; 84 Acts, ch 1245, §4; 85 Acts, ch 21, §15, 54](#)

[CS85, §246.108](#)

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §315, 1503, 1504; 87 Acts, ch 139, §1](#)

[C93, §904.108](#)

[96 Acts, ch 1111, §3; 96 Acts, ch 1129, §111; 96 Acts, ch 1219, §76; 97 Acts, ch 190, §3; 98 Acts, ch 1090, §76, 84; 98 Acts, ch 1131, §4; 99 Acts, ch 114, §46; 2002 Acts, ch 1175, §47; 2003 Acts, ch 88, §1; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §278, 279, 286; 2008 Acts, ch 1180, §22; 2012 Acts, ch 1019, §141; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1328, 1329, 2779](#)

Referred to in [§904.109, 904.115](#)

904.109 Powers of governor — report of abuses.

1. [Section 904.108, subsection 1](#), paragraph "a", does not limit the general supervisory or examining powers vested in the governor by the laws or constitution of the state, or legally vested by the governor in a committee appointed by the governor.

2. The superintendent of an institution shall make reports to the board and the director as requested by the board and the director and the director shall report, in writing, to the governor any abuses found to exist in any of the institutions.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §15, 159](#)

[CS83, §217A.20](#)

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

[CS85, §246.109](#)

[C93, §904.109](#)

[2021 Acts, ch 76, §150](#)

904.110 Official seal.

The department shall have an official seal with the words "Iowa Department of Corrections" and other engraved design as the board prescribes. Every commission, order, or other paper of an official nature executed by the department may be attested with the seal.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §10, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.9

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.110

C93, §904.110

904.111 Chapter 28E agreements.

The department of corrections may enter into agreements, as provided for in [chapter 28E](#), with a district department of correctional services as necessary.

[84 Acts, ch 1184, §20](#)

C85, §217A.10

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.111

C93, §904.111

904.112 Institutional receipts.

Institutional receipts of the department of corrections shall be deposited in the general fund of the state except as follows:

1. Reimbursement for services provided to another institution or state agency, rentals charged to employees or other persons for room, apartment, or housing, and charges for meals.

2. Receipts which are specifically required to be otherwise expended or deposited under [this chapter](#).

[84 Acts, ch 1184, §3](#)

C85, §217A.11

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.112

C93, §904.112

[97 Acts, ch 190, §4](#)

904.113 Gifts.

The department may accept gifts of real or personal property from the federal government or any source. The director may exercise powers with reference to the property so accepted as necessary or appropriate to its preservation and the purposes for which it is given.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §53, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.75

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.113

C93, §904.113

904.114 Travel expenses.

The director, staff members, assistants, and employees, in addition to salary, shall receive their necessary traveling expenses by the nearest practicable route, when engaged in the performance of official business. Permission shall not be granted to any person to travel to another state except by approval of the board.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §11, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.16

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.114

C93, §904.114

[2011 Acts, ch 127, §52, 89](#)

904.115 Report by department.

Annually at the time provided by law, the department shall make a report to the governor and the general assembly, which shall cover the annual period ending with June 30 preceding the date of the report and shall include:

1. An itemized statement of the department's expenditures for each program under the department's administration.
2. Adequate and complete statistical reports for the state as a whole concerning payments made under the department's administration.
3. Recommendations concerning changes in laws under the department's administration as the board deems necessary.
4. Observations and recommendations of the board and the director relative to the programs of the department.
5. Information concerning long-range planning and the master plan as provided by [section 904.108, subsection 1](#), paragraph "i".
6. Other information the board or the director deems advisable, or which is requested by the governor or the general assembly.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §12, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.17

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.115

C93, §904.115

904.116 Institutional appropriations and expenditures — legislative oversight.

1. The department of corrections shall not revise the allocations to the correctional institutions under the control of the department from the amounts allocated to the institutions, unless notice of the revisions is given prior to their effective date to the legislative services agency. The notice shall include information on the department's rationale for making the changes and details concerning the workload and performance measures upon which the revisions are based.

2. a. The department of corrections shall report to the legislative services agency on a monthly basis the current expenditures and full-time equivalent positions of the department's various allocations with a comparison of actual to budgeted expenditures and full-time equivalent positions.

b. The department of corrections shall furnish performance measure data designed to enable comparison of this data with historical expenditure information, and shall assist the legislative services agency in developing information to be used in legislative oversight of all programs operated by the department.

[90 Acts, ch 1247, §9](#)

C91, §246.116

C93, §904.116

[2003 Acts, ch 35, §45, 49; 2013 Acts, ch 30, §261](#)

904.117 Interstate compact fund.

An interstate compact fund is established under the control of the department. All interstate compact fees collected by the department pursuant to [section 907B.4](#) shall be deposited into the fund and the moneys shall be used by the department to offset the costs of complying with the interstate compact for adult offender supervision in [chapter 907B](#). Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund of the state. Notwithstanding [section 12C.7](#), interest and earnings deposited in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

[2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 2, §54, 209; 2004 Acts, ch 1101, §94](#)

Referred to in [§907B.4](#)

904.118 Iowa corrections offender network — fund. Repealed by 2013 Acts, ch 139, §57.

904.118A Central warehouse fund.

The department shall establish a fund for maintaining and operating a central warehouse and supply depot and distribution facility for surplus government products, canned goods, paper products, other staples, and for such other items as determined by the department. A department or agency of the state or a political subdivision of this state may purchase such products, goods, staples, or other items from the central warehouse and supply depot. The fund shall be permanent and shall be composed of the receipts from the sales of merchandise and the recovery of handling, operating, and delivery charges for such merchandise. Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys credited to the fund shall not revert to any other fund. Notwithstanding [section 12C.7](#), interest and earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

[2008 Acts, ch 1180, §23](#)

904.119 Private sector housing of inmates — prohibition.

The department shall not enter into any agreement with a private sector for-profit entity for the purpose of housing inmates committed to the custody of the director.

[2007 Acts, ch 103, §1](#)

904.120 through 904.200 Reserved.

SUBCHAPTER II

INSTITUTIONS

904.201 Iowa medical and classification center.

1. The Iowa medical and classification center at Oakdale shall be utilized as a forensic psychiatric hospital for persons displaying evidence of mental illness or psychosocial disorders and requiring diagnostic services or treatment in a security setting, as a security unit for persons requiring confinement in a security setting, and as a classification unit for the reception, orientation, and classification of inmates before placement in the most appropriate correctional institutions according to necessary security and custody arrangements and the assessed service needs of the inmates.

2. The medical director of the department or the medical director's designee shall secure the professional care and treatment of each person confined at the center and maintain a complete record on the condition of each person confined at the center.

3. *a.* The forensic psychiatric hospital may admit the following persons:

(1) Residents transferred from an institution under the jurisdiction of the department of health and human services or the Iowa department of corrections.

(2) Persons committed by the courts as mentally incompetent to stand trial pursuant to [section 812.6](#).

(3) Persons referred by the courts for psychosocial diagnosis and recommendations as part of the pretrial or presentence procedure or determination of mental competency to stand trial.

(4) Prisoners transferred from county and city jails for diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment for mental illness.

b. Other persons may be admitted providing the admissions are not inconsistent with law and are within the capacity of the facilities and staff to accommodate the persons.

4. The classification unit shall admit inmates for purposes of orientation and classification before placement in the most appropriate correctional institutions.

5. The director may house inmates from any correctional institution at the center in order to provide the inmates with suitable security or medical treatment, or both. Unless an inmate is determined to be mentally ill, the inmate shall not be subjected involuntarily to psychiatric treatment.

6. All admissions to the forensic psychiatric hospital shall be by written application only. Application shall be made by the head of the state institution, agency, governmental body, or

court requesting admission to the medical director of the department or the medical director's designee. An application may be denied by the medical director of the department or the medical director's designee, with the approval of the director, if the admission will result in an overcrowded condition or if adequate staff or facilities are not available. The decision regarding admission and discharge of persons shall be made by the medical director of the department or the medical director's designee, subject to approval of the director.

7. When a person transferred to the center from any other state institution or admitted by request or order of any agency, governmental body, or court no longer requires special treatment in the security setting, the person may be returned to the source from which received. The state institution, agency, governmental body, or court that referred the person for hospitalization shall retain constructive jurisdiction over the person. Persons without legal encumbrances may be discharged directly from the center upon concurrence of the medical director of the department or the medical director's designee and the head of the referring institution, agency, governmental body, or court. The support, commitment, and release statutes applicable to a person at the state institution from which transferred shall remain applicable while the person is at the center.

8. [Chapter 230](#) governs the determination of costs and charges for the care and treatment of persons with mental illness admitted to the forensic psychiatric hospital, except that charges for the care and treatment of any person transferred to the forensic psychiatric hospital from an adult correctional institution or from a state training school shall be paid entirely from state funds. Charges for all other persons at the forensic psychiatric hospital shall be billed to the respective counties at the same ratio as for patients at state mental health institutes under [section 230.20](#).

[85 Acts, ch 21, §29, 54](#)

CS85, §246.201

C93, §904.201

[96 Acts, ch 1129, §113; 2004 Acts, ch 1084, §15; 2004 Acts, ch 1106, §2; 2013 Acts, ch 30, §261; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1330](#)

For future amendment to subsection 8, effective July 1, 2025, see 2024 Acts, ch 1161, §133, 137

904.202 Intake and classification center.

The director may provide facilities and personnel for a diagnostic intake and classification center. The work of the center shall include a scientific study of each inmate, the inmate's career and life history, the causes of the inmate's criminal acts and recommendations for the inmate's custody, care, training, employment, and counseling with a view to rehabilitation and to the protection of society. To facilitate the work of the center and to aid in the rehabilitation of the inmates, the trial judge, prosecuting attorney, and presentence investigators shall furnish the director with any previously authorized presentence investigation report and a full statement of facts and circumstances attending the commission of the offense so far as known or believed by them. If the department develops and utilizes an inmate classification system, it must, within a reasonable time, present evidence from independent experts as to the effectiveness and validity of the classification system.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §36, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.52

[84 Acts, ch 1184, §2; 85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.202

C93, §904.202

[2001 Acts, ch 131, §4](#)

Referred to in [§331.756\(37\)](#)

904.203 through 904.206 Repealed by 2017 Acts, ch 167, §26.

904.207 Violator facility.

The director may establish a violator facility as a freestanding facility, or designate a portion of an existing correctional facility for the purpose. A violator facility is for the temporary confinement of offenders who have violated conditions of release under work

release or parole as defined in [section 906.1](#), or probation granted as a result of suspension of a sentence to the custody of the director of the department of corrections. If a violator facility is established, the director shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#), subject to the approval of the board, to implement [this section](#).

[91 Acts, ch 219, §7](#)

CS91, §246.207

C93, §904.207

[93 Acts, ch 46, §6; 2016 Acts, ch 1051, §1](#)

Referred to in [§901B.1](#), [906.1](#), [908.9](#), [908.11](#)

904.208 through 904.300 Reserved.

SUBCHAPTER III

PERSONNEL AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF INSTITUTIONS

904.301 Appointment of superintendents.

1. The director shall appoint, subject to the approval of the board, the superintendents of the institutions provided for in [section 904.102](#).

2. The superintendent has the immediate custody and control, subject to the orders and policies of the director, of all property used in connection with the institution except as otherwise provided by statute. The tenure of office of a superintendent shall be at the pleasure of the appointing authority but a superintendent may be removed for inability or refusal to properly perform the duties of the office. Removal shall occur only after an opportunity is given the person to be heard before the board and the director and upon preferred written charges. The removal when made is final.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §16, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.21

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.301

C93, §904.301

904.301A Appointment of directors.

The director shall appoint, subject to the approval of the board, a district director for each district department established in [section 904.104A](#).

[2023 Acts, ch 19, §2780; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §60](#)

Referred to in [§904.101](#)

Section amended

904.301B Duties of district director.

Each district director employed by the department shall be qualified in the administration of correctional programs. The district director shall:

1. Perform the duties and have the responsibilities delegated or specified by the department.

2. Manage the district department's community-based correctional program, in accordance with the policies of the department.

3. Employ, with approval of the department, and supervise the employees of the district department, including reserve peace officers, if a force of reserve peace officers has been established.

4. Prepare all budgets and fiscal documents, and certify for payment all expenses and payrolls lawfully incurred by the district department.

5. Act as secretary to the district advisory board, prepare its agenda and record its proceedings. The district shall provide a copy of minutes from each meeting of the district advisory board to the legislative services agency.

6. Develop and submit to the department a plan for the establishment, implementation, and operation of a community-based correctional program in that judicial district, which

program conforms to the guidelines drawn up by the department under [this chapter](#) and which conform to rules, policies, and procedures pertaining to the supervision of parole and work release adopted by the director concerning the community-based correctional program.

7. Negotiate and, upon approval by the department, implement contracts or other arrangements for utilization of local treatment and service resources authorized by [subsection 15](#).

8. Administer the batterers' treatment program for domestic abuse offenders required in [section 708.2B](#).

9. Notify the board of parole, thirty days prior to release, of the release from a residential facility operated by the district department of a person serving a sentence under [section 902.12](#).

10. File with the director, within ninety days after the close of each fiscal year, a report covering the district advisory board's proceedings and a statement of receipts and expenditures during the preceding fiscal year.

11. Arrange for, upon approval of the department, by contract or on such alternative basis as may be mutually acceptable, and equip suitable quarters at one or more sites in the district as may be necessary for the district department's community-based correctional program, provided that the district director shall to the greatest extent feasible utilize existing facilities and shall keep capital expenditures for acquisition, renovation, and repair of facilities to a minimum. The district director shall not enter into lease-purchase agreements for the purposes of constructing, renovating, expanding, or otherwise improving a community-based correctional facility or office unless express authorization has been granted by the general assembly, and current funding is adequate to meet the lease-purchase obligation.

12. Have authority to accept property by gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise, and to sell or exchange any property so accepted and apply the proceeds thereof, or the property received in exchange therefor, to the purposes enumerated in [subsection 11](#).

13. Recruit, promote, accept, and use local financial support for the district department's community-based correctional program from private sources such as community service funds, business, industrial and private foundations, voluntary agencies, and other lawful sources.

14. Accept and expend state and federal funds available directly to the district department for all or any part of the cost of its community-based correctional program.

15. Arrange, by contract or on an alternative basis mutually acceptable, and with approval of the director or that director's designee for utilization of existing local treatment and service resources, including but not limited to employment, job training, general, special, or remedial education; psychiatric and marriage counseling; and substance use disorder treatment and counseling.

16. Have authority to establish a force of reserve peace officers, either separately or collectively through a [chapter 28E](#) agreement, as provided in [chapter 80D](#).

[C79, 81, §905.6; [81 Acts, ch 207, §4](#)]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §137, 159](#); [88 Acts, ch 1084, §3](#); [91 Acts, ch 218, §29](#); [91 Acts, ch 267, §421](#); [95 Acts, ch 77, §7](#); [2001 Acts, ch 104, §8](#); [2003 Acts, ch 35, §45, 49](#); [2003 Acts, ch 156, §14](#); [2023 Acts, ch 19, §2785](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1182, §85, 93](#)

C2025, §904.301B

Section transferred from §905.6 in Code 2025 pursuant to directive in [2024 Acts, ch 1182, §93](#)
Section amended

904.302 Farm operations administrator.

The director may appoint a farm operations administrator for institutions under the control of the departments of corrections and health and human services. If appointed, the farm operations administrator, subject to the direction of the director shall do all of the following:

1. Manage and supervise all farming and nursery operations at institutions, farms and gardens of the departments of corrections and health and human services.

2. Determine priorities on the use of agricultural resources and labor for farming and nursery operations, and cooperate with Iowa state university of science and technology in all approved uses connected with the institution.

3. Develop an annual operations plan for crop and livestock production and utilization that will provide work experience and contribute to developing vocational skills of the institutions' inmates and residents. The department of health and human services must approve the parts of the plan that affect farm operations on property of institutions having programs of the department of health and human services.

4. Coordinate farm lease arrangements, farm input purchases, farm product distribution, machinery maintenance and replacement, and renovation of farm buildings, fences and livestock facilities.

5. Develop and maintain accounting records, budgeting and cash flow systems, and inventory records.

6. Advise and instruct institution staff and inmates in application of agricultural technology.

7. Implement actions to restore and maintain productivity of soil resources at the institutions through crop rotation, minimum tillage, contouring, terracing, waterways, pasture renovation, windbreaks, buffer zones, and wildlife habitat in accordance with United States department of agriculture natural resources conservation service plans and recommendations.

8. Pay property taxes levied against land leased by the department of corrections or department of health and human services as provided in [section 427.1, subsection 1](#).

9. Administer the revolving farm fund created in [section 904.706](#).

10. Do any other farm management duties assigned by the director.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §17, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.22

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.302

[87 Acts, ch 139, §2](#)

C93, §904.302

[95 Acts, ch 216, §25; 2003 Acts, ch 130, §3, 5; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1331, 1332](#)

Referred to in [§427.1\(1\)\(b\)](#), [904.706](#)

904.303 Officers and employees — compensation.

1. The director shall determine the number and compensation of subordinate officers and employees for each institution subject to [chapter 8A, subchapter IV](#). Subject to [this chapter](#), the officers and employees shall be appointed and discharged by the superintendent or district director, as applicable, who shall keep in the record of each subordinate officer and employee, the date of employment, the compensation, and the date of and the reasons for each discharge.

2. The superintendents, district directors, and employees of the correctional institutions shall receive salaries or compensation as determined by the director, shall receive a midshift meal when on duty, and shall be provided uniforms if uniforms are required to be worn when on duty. The uniforms shall be maintained and replaced by the department at no cost to the employees and shall remain the property of the department.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §18, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.23

[85 Acts, ch 21, §16, 54](#)

CS85, §246.303

C93, §904.303

[2003 Acts, ch 145, §280; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §61](#)

Section amended

904.303A Training — fund.

A training fund is established under the control of the department. The director shall provide training to all new officers or employees of the department free of charge. The department shall also offer in-service training which shall include classes for officers and employees in the areas of safety, first aid, emergency preparedness, and any other appropriate class determined by the director. Employees of a judicial district may also

attend any in-service training offered by the department. The department may recover from the correctional institution or judicial district the actual costs of planning and conducting the training classes if an employee of the institution or judicial district attends an in-service training class. The costs that may be recovered by the department include the costs of course development, training materials, equipment and facility rental, instruction, and administration. Moneys received as reimbursement of the costs shall be deposited in the training fund for use in conducting future training classes. All cost reimbursement moneys, grants, or appropriations related to training shall be deposited in the fund. Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys remaining in the training fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund of the state. Notwithstanding [section 12C.7](#), interest and earnings deposited in the training fund shall be credited to the training fund.

[2001 Acts, ch 131, §5](#)

904.304 Bonds.

The director shall require officers and employees of institutions under the director's control who are charged with the custody or control of money or property belonging to the state, to give an official bond properly conditioned and signed by sufficient sureties in a sum to be fixed by the director. The bond is subject to approval by the director and shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §19, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.24

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.304

C93, §904.304

904.305 Dwelling house or quarters.

1. The director may furnish the superintendent of each of the institutions, in addition to salary, with a dwelling house or with appropriate quarters in lieu of a house, or the director may compensate the superintendent of each of the institutions in lieu of furnishing a house or quarters. If a superintendent of the institution is furnished with a dwelling house or quarters, either of which is owned by the state, the superintendent may also be furnished with water, heat, and electricity.

2. The director may furnish assistant superintendents or other employees, or both, with dwelling houses or with appropriate quarters, owned by the state. The assistant superintendent or employee, who is so furnished shall pay rent for the dwelling house or quarters in an amount to be determined by the superintendent of the institution, which shall be the fair market rental value of the house or quarters. If an assistant superintendent or employee is furnished with a dwelling house or quarters either of which is owned by the state, the assistant superintendent or employee may also be furnished with water, heat, and electricity. However, the furnishing of these utilities shall be considered in determining the fair market rental value of the house or quarters.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §20, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.25

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.305

C93, §904.305

[2019 Acts, ch 24, §104](#)

904.306 Conferences.

Quarterly conferences of the superintendents and the district directors of the institutions shall be held with the director for the consideration of all matters relative to the management of the institutions. Full minutes of the meetings shall be preserved in the records of the director. The director may cause papers to be prepared and read at the conferences on appropriate subjects.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §35, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.51

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.306

C93, §904.306

[2024 Acts, ch 1182, §62](#)

Section amended

904.307 Annual reports.

1. The superintendent of each institution shall make an annual report to the director.
2. The district director of each district department shall make an annual report to the director.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §37, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.53

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.307

[88 Acts, ch 1049, §1](#)

C93, §904.307

[2024 Acts, ch 1182, §63](#)

Section amended

904.308 Cooperation.

The department and the director shall cooperate with any department or agency of the state government in any manner, including the exchange of employees, calculated to improve administration of the affairs of the institutions. Joint use of facilities by the department and another public agency as defined in [section 28E.2](#) shall be only according to an agreement entered into under [chapter 28E](#). All joint campuses shall have one superintendent and one business manager who shall be employed by the department with supervisory responsibility for the majority of the facility's population. Employment of the superintendent and business manager shall be done in consultation with the department which has responsibility for services for the other population at the facility.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §49, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.71

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.308

C93, §904.308

904.309 Consultants.

The director may secure the services of consultants to furnish advice on administrative, professional, or technical problems to the director or the employees of institutions under the director's jurisdiction or to provide in-service training and instruction for the employees. The director may pay the consultants from funds appropriated to the department or to any institution under the department's jurisdiction.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §50, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.72

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.309

C93, §904.309

904.310 Canteens.

The director may maintain a canteen at an institution under the director's jurisdiction for the sale to persons confined in or committed to the institution of items such as toilet articles, candy, tobacco products, notions, and other sundries, and may provide the necessary facilities, equipment, personnel, and merchandise for the canteen. The director shall specify the items to be sold in the canteen. The department may establish and maintain a permanent operating fund for each canteen. The fund shall consist of the receipts from the sale of commodities at the canteen and donations designated by inmates for reimbursement of victims' travel expenses. Any money in the fund over the amount needed to do normal business transactions, to reimburse any accounts which have subsidized the canteen fund,

and to reimburse victims' travel expenses shall be considered profit. This money may remain in the institution's canteen fund and be used for any purchase which the superintendent or district director, as applicable, approves that will directly and collectively benefit the inmates of the institution or to reimburse victims' travel expenses.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §54, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.76

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.310

[86 Acts, ch 1075, §1; 89 Acts, ch 142, §1; 91 Acts, ch 260, §1220](#)

C93, §904.310

[2001 Acts, ch 131, §6; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §64](#)

Section amended

904.310A Information or materials — distribution.

1. Funds appropriated to the department or other funds made available to the department shall not be used to distribute or make available any commercially published information or material to an inmate when such information or material is sexually explicit or features nudity.

2. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to administer [this section](#).

[90 Acts, ch 1251, §29](#)

C91, §246.310A

[91 Acts, ch 258, §38](#)

C93, §904.310A

[2018 Acts, ch 1168, §21](#)

904.311 Contingent fund — inmate tort claim fund.

1. The director may permit the superintendent or the district director, as applicable, of each institution to retain a stated amount of funds in possession as a contingent fund for the payment of freight, postage, commodities purchased on authority of the director on a cash basis, salaries, inmate allowances, and bills granting discount for cash. If necessary, the director shall make proper requisition upon the director of the department of administrative services for a warrant on the treasurer of state to secure the contingent fund for each institution.

2. There is established in the office of the director an inmate tort claim fund. This fund shall be used to reimburse inmates for the damage or loss of personal property caused by the department. Reimbursement for a single loss may be up to one hundred dollars. [Section 8.33](#) notwithstanding, moneys in the fund shall not revert but shall remain in the fund. The fund shall be replenished from the general appropriation to the institutions as necessary to meet the obligations of the fund.

3. Tort claims denied at the institution shall be forwarded to the state appeal board for its consideration as if originally filed with that body. This procedure shall be used in lieu of the procedure in [chapter 669](#) for inmate tort claims of less than one hundred dollars.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §38, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.54

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.311

[88 Acts, ch 1049, §2](#)

C93, §904.311

[94 Acts, ch 1142, §7; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2018 Acts, ch 1041, §127; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §65](#)

Subsection 1 amended

904.311A Prison recycling funds.

A recycling fund for each prison institution is created as a separate and distinct fund in the state treasury. All moneys remitted to the department for the recycling operations of a prison institution shall be deposited in the fund established for that institution. Notwithstanding [section 12C.7, subsection 2](#), interest or earnings on moneys deposited in each fund shall be

credited to that fund. Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys in each fund shall not revert to the general fund of the state at the close of a fiscal year but shall remain in that fund and be used as directed in [this section](#) in the succeeding fiscal year. The treasurer of state shall act as custodian of each fund and disburse moneys from each fund as directed by the department for the purpose of payment of operating expenses for recycling.

[95 Acts, ch 207, §26; 97 Acts, ch 190, §5](#)

904.312 Purchase of supplies.

1. The director shall adopt rules governing the purchase of all articles and supplies needed at the various institutions and the form and verification of vouchers for the purchases. When purchases are made by sample, the sample shall be properly marked and retained until after an award or delivery of the items is made. The director may purchase supplies from any institution under the director's control, for use in any other institution, and reasonable reimbursement shall be made for these purchases.

2. The director shall, whenever technically feasible, purchase and use degradable loose foam packing material manufactured from grain starches or other renewable resources, unless the cost of the packing material is more than ten percent greater than the cost of packing material made from nonrenewable resources. For the purposes of this subsection, "*packing material*" means material, other than an exterior packing shell, that is used to stabilize, protect, cushion, or brace the contents of a package.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §39, 159](#)

[CS83, §217A.55](#)

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

[CS85, §246.312](#)

[C93, §904.312](#)

[93 Acts, ch 176, §48; 2013 Acts, ch 30, §172](#)

904.312A Motor vehicles.

1. The department of corrections shall provide for the purchase of qualified renewable fuels to power internal combustion engines that are used to operate motor vehicles and for the purchase of motor vehicles operating using engines powered by qualified renewable fuels in the same manner required for the director of the department of administrative services pursuant to [section 8A.368](#). The department of corrections shall compile information regarding compliance with the provisions of [this subsection](#) in the same manner as the department of administrative services pursuant to [section 8A.369](#). The department of corrections shall cooperate with the department of administrative services in preparing the annual state fleet qualified renewable fuels compliance report regarding compliance with [this subsection](#) as provided in [section 8A.369](#).

2. a. Of all new passenger vehicles and light pickup trucks purchased by the department, a minimum of ten percent of all such vehicles and trucks purchased shall be equipped with engines which utilize alternative methods of propulsion, including but not limited to any of the following:

(1) A flexible fuel which is any of the following:

(a) E-85 gasoline as provided in [section 214A.2](#).

(b) B-20 biodiesel blended fuel as provided in [section 214A.2](#).

(c) A renewable fuel approved by the office of renewable fuels and coproducts pursuant to [section 159A.3](#).

(2) Compressed or liquefied natural gas.

(3) Propane gas.

(4) Solar energy.

(5) Electricity.

b. The provisions of [this subsection](#) do not apply to vehicles and trucks purchased and directly used for law enforcement or off-road maintenance work.

[94 Acts, ch 1119, §31; 2006 Acts, ch 1142, §70, 71; 2007 Acts, ch 22, §107; 2008 Acts, ch 1169, §40, 42; 2022 Acts, ch 1067, §41](#)

Referred to in [§8A.369](#)

904.312B Purchase of biobased hydraulic fluids, greases, and other industrial lubricants.

The department when purchasing hydraulic fluids, greases, and other industrial lubricants shall give preference to purchasing biobased hydraulic fluids, greases, and other industrial lubricants as provided in [section 8A.316](#).

[98 Acts, ch 1082, §7](#); [2000 Acts, ch 1109, §7](#); [2003 Acts, ch 145, §281](#); [2011 Acts, ch 25, §79](#)

904.312C Purchase of designated biobased products.

The department shall give preference to purchasing designated biobased products in the same manner as provided in [section 8A.317](#).

[2008 Acts, ch 1104, §7](#)

904.313 Emergency purchases.

The purchase of materials or equipment for penal or correctional institutions under the department is exempted from the requirements of centralized purchasing and bidding by the department of administrative services if the materials or equipment are needed to make an emergency repair at an institution or the security of the institution would be jeopardized because the materials or equipment could not be purchased soon enough through centralized purchasing and bidding and, in either case, if the director approves the emergency purchase.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §40, 159](#)

[CS83, §217A.56](#)

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

[CS85, §246.313](#)

[C93, §904.313](#)

[2003 Acts, ch 145, §286](#)

904.314 Plans and specifications for improvements.

1. The director shall cause plans and specifications to be prepared by the department of administrative services for all improvements authorized and costing over the competitive bid threshold in [section 26.3](#), or as established in [section 314.1B](#). An appropriation for any improvement costing over the competitive bid threshold in [section 26.3](#), or as established in [section 314.1B](#), shall not be expended until the adoption of suitable plans and specifications, prepared by a competent architect or engineer and accompanied by a detailed statement of the amount, quality, and description of all material and labor required for the completion of the improvement.

2. A plan shall not be adopted, and an improvement shall not be constructed, which contemplates an expenditure of money in excess of the appropriation.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §41, 159](#)

[CS83, §217A.57](#)

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

[CS85, §246.314](#)

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §316](#)

[C93, §904.314](#)

[2003 Acts, ch 145, §286](#); [2006 Acts, ch 1017, §39, 42](#)

904.315 Contracts for improvements.

1. The director of the department of administrative services shall, in writing, let all contracts for authorized improvements under [chapter 8A, subchapter III](#), costing in excess of the competitive bid threshold in [section 26.3](#), or as established in [section 314.1B](#). Upon prior authorization by the director, improvements costing five thousand dollars or less may be made by the superintendent or district director, as applicable, of any institution.

2. A contract is not required for improvements at a state institution where the labor of inmates is to be used if the contract is not for a construction, reconstruction, demolition, or repair project or improvement with an estimated cost in excess of one hundred thousand dollars.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §42, 159](#)

[CS83, §217A.58](#)

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.315

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §317](#)

C93, §904.315

[2000 Acts, ch 1229, §22](#); [2003 Acts, ch 145, §282](#); [2006 Acts, ch 1017, §40, 42](#); [2009 Acts, ch 178, §28](#); [2010 Acts, ch 1190, §27](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1182, §66](#)

Subsection 1 amended

904.316 Payment for improvements.

The director of the department of administrative services shall not authorize payment for construction purposes until satisfactory proof has been furnished to the director of the department of administrative services by the proper officer or supervising architect, that the contract has been complied with by the parties. Payments shall be made in a manner similar to that in which the current expenses of the institutions are paid.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §43, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.59

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.316

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §318](#)

C93, §904.316

[2003 Acts, ch 145, §286](#)

904.317 Director may buy and sell real estate — options.

1. The director, subject to the approval of the board, may secure options to purchase real estate and acquire and sell real estate for the proper uses of the institutions. Real estate shall be acquired and sold upon terms and conditions the director recommends subject to the approval of the board. Upon sale of the real estate, the proceeds shall be deposited in a corrections capital reinvestment fund, which is established in the state treasury under the purview of the department. There is appropriated from the fund to the department the proceeds, which may be used to purchase other real estate or for capital improvements upon property under the director's supervision. Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys in the fund that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of a fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for expenditure for the purposes designated. Notwithstanding [section 12C.7, subsection 2](#), interest or earnings on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

2. The costs incident to the securing of options and acquisition and sale of real estate including, but not limited to, appraisals, invitations for offers, abstracts, and other necessary costs, may be paid from moneys appropriated for support and maintenance to the institution at which the real estate is located. The funding source for these costs shall be reimbursed from the proceeds of the sale.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §51, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.73

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.317

[86 Acts, ch 1244, §31](#)

C93, §904.317

[2023 Acts, ch 113, §26, 28](#)

904.318 Fire protection contracts.

1. The director may enter into contracts with the governing body of any city for the protection from fire of any property under the director's primary control, located in any city or in territory contiguous to a city.

2. The director of the department of inspections, appeals, and licensing or the director's designee shall cause an annual inspection to be made of all the institutions listed in [section 904.102](#) and shall make a written report of the inspection to the director.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §52, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.74

85 Acts, ch 21, §54
CS85, §246.318
C93, §904.318
2023 Acts, ch 19, §1708

904.319 Temporary quarters in emergency.

If the buildings at any institution under the management of the director are destroyed or rendered unfit for habitation by reason of fire, storms, or other like causes, to such an extent that the inmates cannot be confined and cared for at the institution, the director shall make temporary provision for the confinement and care of the inmates at some other place in the state. Like provision may be made in case of an epidemic among the inmates. The reasonable cost of the change including the cost of transfer of inmates, shall be paid from any moneys in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

83 Acts, ch 96, §46, 159
CS83, §217A.68
85 Acts, ch 21, §54
CS85, §246.319
C93, §904.319
2018 Acts, ch 1041, §117

904.320 Private transportation of prisoners.

1. If the director contracts with a private person or entity for the transportation of inmates to or from an institution, the contract shall include provisions which require the following:

a. The private person or any officers or employees of the private person or private entity shall not have been convicted of any of the following:

(1) A felony.
(2) Within the three-year period immediately preceding the date of the execution of the contract, a violation of the laws pertaining to operation of motor vehicles punishable as a serious misdemeanor or greater offense.

(3) Domestic abuse assault in which bodily injury was inflicted or attempted to be inflicted.

(4) A crime involving illegal manufacture, use, possession, sale, or an attempt to illegally manufacture, use, possess, or sell alcohol or a controlled substance or other drug.

b. The person or persons actually transporting the prisoners shall be trained and proficient in the safe use of firearms.

c. Any employees of a private entity which has entered into the contract for transportation of prisoners shall only possess and use security and restraint equipment, including any firearms, which has been issued by the private entity.

d. The person or persons actually transporting the prisoners shall be trained and proficient in appropriate transportation procedures.

e. The person or entity complies, within one year of publication, with any applicable standards for the transportation of prisoners promulgated by the American corrections association.

2. The department shall adopt rules pertaining to contracts with private persons or entities providing transportation of inmates of institutions under the control of the department.

98 Acts, ch 1131, §5

904.321 Department of corrections survivor benefits fund.

1. A department of corrections survivor benefits fund is established in the state treasury under the control of the department. The fund shall consist of moneys transferred to the fund pursuant to [section 99G.39](#) and any other moneys appropriated to or deposited in the fund. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the department for the purposes set forth in [subsection 2](#).

2. The department shall distribute the moneys credited to the fund in a fiscal year in the form of grants to nonprofit organizations that provide resources to assist surviving families of eligible employees of the department of corrections killed in the line of duty in paying costs associated with accident or health care coverage pursuant to [section 509A.13D](#).

3. Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys in the fund that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of a fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for expenditure for the purposes designated. Notwithstanding [section 12C.7, subsection 2](#), interest or earnings on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

[2021 Acts, ch 166, §33 – 35](#)

Referred to in [§99G.39](#)

Section applies retroactively to March 1, 2021; 2021 Acts, ch 166, §35

904.322 through 904.400 Reserved.

SUBCHAPTER IV INVESTIGATIONS

904.401 Investigation.

The director or director's designee shall visit and inspect the institutions under the director's control, and investigate the financial condition and management of the institutions at least once in six months.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §28, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.41

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.401

C93, §904.401

[94 Acts, ch 1142, §8](#)

904.402 Investigation of other institutions.

The director may investigate charges of abuse, neglect or mismanagement on the part of any officer or employee of any public or private institution subject to the director's supervision or control.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §29, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.42

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.402

C93, §904.402

904.403 Investigatory powers — witnesses.

1. The director may exercise the following powers in an investigation:
 - a. Summon and compel the attendance of witnesses.
 - b. Examine the witnesses under oath, which the director may administer.
 - c. Have access to all books, papers, and property material to the investigation.
 - d. Order the production of books or papers material to the investigation.
2. Witnesses other than those in the employ of the state are entitled to the same fees as in civil cases in the district court.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §30, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.43

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.403

C93, §904.403

[2013 Acts, ch 30, §225](#)

Referred to in [§904.404](#)

904.404 Contempt.

If a person fails or refuses to obey the orders of the director issued under [section 904.403](#), or fails or refuses to give or produce evidence when required, the director shall petition the

district court in the county where the offense occurs for an order of contempt and the court shall proceed as for contempt of court.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §31, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.44

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.404

C93, §904.404

904.405 Recording of testimony.

The director shall cause the testimony taken at the investigation to be recorded. The recording of the testimony shall not be transcribed unless the testimony is part of a case that is appealed or an interested party requests a transcript and pays the cost of preparing the transcript. The recording of the testimony, or the transcription thereof, shall be filed and maintained in the director's office at the seat of government for at least five years from the date the testimony is taken or the date of a final decision in a case involving the testimony, whichever is later. However, a recording of testimony involving any employee of the department shall continue to be filed and maintained until the employee no longer is employed by the department.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §32, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.45

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.405

C93, §904.405

[2001 Acts, ch 131, §7](#)

904.406 through 904.500 Reserved.

SUBCHAPTER V

COMMITMENT, TRANSFER, AND GENERAL SUPERVISION OF INMATES

904.501 Reports to director.

The superintendent of each institution shall, within ten days after the commitment or entrance of a person to the institution, cause a true copy of the person's entrance record to be made and forwarded to the director. When an inmate leaves, is discharged, transferred, or dies in any institution, the superintendent or person in charge shall within ten days thereafter send the information to the office of the director on forms which the director prescribes.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §24, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.34

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.501

C93, §904.501

904.502 Questionable commitment.

The superintendent or the district director, as applicable, shall within three days of the commitment or entrance of a person at the institution notify the director if there is any question as to the propriety of the commitment or detention of any person received at the institution, and the director upon notification shall inquire into the matter presented, and take appropriate action.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §25, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.35

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.502

C93, §904.502

[2024 Acts, ch 1182, §67](#)

Section amended

904.503 Transfers — persons with mental illness.

1. a. The director may transfer at the expense of the department an inmate of one institution to another institution under the director's control if the director is satisfied that the transfer is in the best interests of the institutions or inmates.

b. The director may transfer at the expense of the department an inmate under the director's jurisdiction from any institution supervised by the director to another institution under the control of the director of health and human services with the consent and approval of the director of health and human services and may transfer an inmate to any other institution for mental or physical examination or treatment retaining jurisdiction over the inmate when so transferred.

c. If the juvenile court waives its jurisdiction over a child over thirteen and under eighteen years of age pursuant to [section 232.45](#) so that the child may be prosecuted as an adult and if the child is convicted of a public offense in the district court and committed to the custody of the director under [section 901.7](#), the director may request transfer of the child to the state training school under [this section](#). If the director of health and human services consents and approves the transfer, the child may be retained in temporary custody by the state training school until attaining the age of eighteen, at which time the child shall be returned to the custody of the director of the department of corrections to serve the remainder of the sentence imposed by the district court. If the child becomes a security risk or becomes a danger to other residents of the state training school at any time before reaching eighteen years of age, the director of health and human services may immediately return the child to the custody of the director of the department of corrections to serve the remainder of the sentence.

2. When the director has cause to believe that an inmate in a state correctional institution is mentally ill, the Iowa department of corrections may cause the inmate to be transferred to the Iowa medical and classification center, or to another appropriate facility within the department, for examination, diagnosis, or treatment. The inmate shall be confined at that center or facility or a state mental health institute until the expiration of the inmate's sentence or until the inmate is pronounced in good mental health. If the inmate is pronounced in good mental health before the expiration of the inmate's sentence, the inmate shall be returned to the state correctional institution until the expiration of the inmate's sentence.

3. When the director has reason to believe that a prisoner in a state correctional institution, whose sentence has expired, is mentally ill, the director shall cause examination to be made of the prisoner by competent physicians who shall certify to the director whether the prisoner is in good mental health or mentally ill. The director may make further investigation and if satisfied that the prisoner is mentally ill, the director may cause the prisoner to be transferred to one of the hospitals for persons with mental illness, or may order the prisoner to be confined in the Iowa medical and classification center.

2. [SS15, §5709-b, -e; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §3755; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §246.16; [82 Acts, ch 1100, §11](#)]

3. [C97, §5710; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §3756; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §246.17; [82 Acts, ch 1100, §12](#)]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §21, 92, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.31, 246.16

[84 Acts, ch 1184, §14, 15; 84 Acts, ch 1214, §1](#)

C85, §217A.31

[85 Acts, ch 21, §17 – 19, 54](#)

CS85, §246.503

[89 Acts, ch 80, §1](#)

C93, §904.503

[96 Acts, ch 1129, §113; 2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 2, §55, 209; 2013 Acts, ch 30, §261; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1333](#)

Referred to in [§229.26](#)

904.504 Federal prisoners.

Inmates sentenced for any term by any court of the United States may be received by the superintendent of a state correctional institution and kept there in pursuance of their

sentences. The director may transfer inmates at state correctional institutions to the federal bureau of prisons.

[C51, §3119; R60, §5138; C73, §4771; C97, §5676; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §3750; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §246.11]

83 Acts, ch 96, §91, 159; 84 Acts, ch 1184, §13

C85, §217A.39

85 Acts, ch 21, §22, 54

CS85, §246.504

C93, §904.504

904.505 Disciplinary procedures — use of force.

1. Inmates who disobey the disciplinary rules of the institution to which they are committed shall be punished by the imposition of the penalties prescribed in the disciplinary rules, according to the following guidelines:

a. To ensure that sanctions are imposed only at such times and to such a degree as is necessary to regulate inmate behavior within the limits of the disciplinary rules and to promote a safe and orderly institutional environment.

b. To control inmate behavior in an impartial and consistent manner.

c. To ensure that disciplinary procedures are fair and that sanctions are not capricious or retaliatory.

d. To prevent the commission of offenses through the deterrent effect of the sanctions available.

e. To define the elements of each offense and the penalties which may be imposed for violations, in order to give fair warning of prohibited conduct.

f. To provide procedures for preparation of reports of disciplinary actions, for conducting disciplinary hearings, and for processing of disciplinary appeals.

2. The superintendent or district director, as applicable, of each institution shall maintain a register of all penalties imposed on inmates and the cause for which the penalties were imposed.

3. A correctional officer of a correctional institution or the officer's assistant shall, in case an inmate resists the officer's or assistant's lawful authority, or refuses to obey the officer's or assistant's lawful command, only use such force as is reasonably necessary under all attendant circumstances. The use of a deadly weapon is justified under conditions of extreme necessity and as a last resort to protect the life or safety of a person. The use of a deadly weapon is not justified solely to prevent damage to or destruction of property where there is no danger to the life or safety of a person. An officer or assistant is justified in using force which causes injury or death to an inmate if the officer's or assistant's actions comply with the requirements of [this subsection](#).

4. The disciplinary rules may impose a reasonable administrative fee for the filing of a report of a major disciplinary rule infraction for which an inmate is found guilty. A fee charged pursuant to [this subsection](#) shall be deposited in the general fund of the state.

85 Acts, ch 21, §21

CS85, §246.505

C93, §904.505

2010 Acts, ch 1031, §411; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §68

Subsection 2 amended

904.506 Confiscation of currency.

1. Except as provided for by the director by rule, it is unlawful for an inmate of one of the penal or correctional facilities under the department to possess United States or foreign currency in the penal or correctional facility.

2. The director shall adopt rules as to circumstances under which the possession of currency by an inmate of a penal or correctional facility under the department is authorized.

3. The department may confiscate currency unlawfully possessed in violation of [this section](#). Money confiscated pursuant to [this section](#) shall be deposited in a special fund in the state treasury which fund shall be established by the treasurer of state. Money deposited

in the fund may be drawn upon by the department to pay for expenses incurred in operating the division's penal and correctional facilities and programs.

[83 Acts, ch 51, §2, 7, 9](#); [83 Acts, ch 96, §159, 160](#)

CS83, §217A.77

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.506

C93, §904.506

904.507 Escape.

An inmate of a state correctional institution who escapes from it may be arrested and returned to the institution, by an officer or employee of a state correctional institution without any other authority than [this chapter](#), and by any peace officer or other person on the request in writing of the superintendent or the state director.

[SS15, §2713-n15; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, **§3738**; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §245.15]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §88, 159](#); [83 Acts, ch 101, §52](#); [84 Acts, ch 1184, §12](#)

C85, §217A.38

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.507

C93, §904.507

904.507A Liability for escapee expenses.

If a person escapes from a state correctional institution including but not limited to those institutions listed in [section 904.102](#), all necessary and legal expenses incurred by that person while absent from the state institution shall be paid out of any moneys in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated. The expenses shall be paid on claims filed with the department of administrative services.

[98 Acts, ch 1086, §5](#); [2003 Acts, ch 145, §286](#)

904.508 Property of inmate — inmate savings fund.

1. The superintendent of each institution shall receive and care for any property an inmate may possess on the inmate's person upon entering the institution, and on the discharge of the inmate, return the property to the inmate or the inmate's legal representatives, unless the property has been previously disposed of according to the inmate's written designation or policies prescribed by the board. The superintendent may place an inmate's money at interest, keeping an account of the money and returning the remaining money upon discharge.

2. Pursuant to [section 904.702](#), the director shall establish and maintain an inmate savings fund in an interest-bearing account for the deposit of all or part of an inmate's allowances and amounts, except amounts directed to be deposited in the inmate telephone fund established in [section 904.508A](#), sent to the inmate from a source other than the department. All or part of an inmate's allowances and amounts, except amounts directed to be deposited in the inmate telephone fund established in [section 904.508A](#), from a source other than the department shall be deposited into the savings fund, until the inmate's deposit is equal to one hundred dollars as provided in [section 906.9](#). If an inmate's deposits are equal to or in excess of one hundred dollars, the inmate may voluntarily withdraw from the savings fund. The director shall notify the inmate of this right to withdraw and shall provide the inmate with a written request form to facilitate the withdrawal. If the inmate withdraws and the inmate's deposits exceed the amount due as provided in [section 906.9](#), the director shall disburse the excess amount as provided for allowances under [section 904.702](#), except the director shall not deposit the excess amount in the inmate savings fund. If the inmate chooses to continue to participate in the savings fund, the inmate's deposits shall be returned to the inmate upon discharge, parole, or placement on work release. Otherwise, the inmate's deposits shall be disposed of as provided in [subsection 3](#). An inmate's deposits into the savings fund may be used to provide the money due the inmate upon discharge, parole, or placement on work release, as required under [section 906.9](#). Interest earned from the savings fund shall be placed in a

separate account, and may be used for purchases approved by the director to directly and collectively benefit inmates.

3. Upon the death of an inmate, the superintendent of the institution shall immediately take possession of the decedent's property left at the institution, including the inmate's deposits into the inmate savings fund, and shall deliver the property to the person designated by the inmate to be contacted in case of an emergency. However, if the property left by the decedent cannot be delivered to the designated person, delivery may be made to the surviving spouse or an heir of the decedent. If the decedent's property cannot be delivered to the designated person and no surviving spouse or heir is known, the superintendent shall deliver the property to the treasurer of state for disposition as unclaimed property pursuant to [chapter 556](#), after deducting expenses incurred in disposing of the decedent's body or property.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §44, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.66

[85 Acts, ch 21, §25, 54](#)

CS85, §246.508

[89 Acts, ch 46, §1; 91 Acts, ch 219, §8](#)

C93, §904.508

[2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 2, §56, 209](#)

Referred to in [§904.509, 904.702, 906.9](#)

904.508A Inmate telephone fund.

The department is authorized to establish and maintain an inmate telephone fund for the deposit of moneys received for inmate telephone calls. All funds deposited in this fund shall be used for the benefit of inmates. The director shall adopt rules providing for the disbursement of moneys from the fund.

[95 Acts, ch 207, §27; 2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 2, §57, 209](#)

Referred to in [§904.508, 904.702](#)

904.509 Money deposited with treasurer of state.

1. Money from property converted pursuant to [section 904.508](#) shall be transmitted to the treasurer of state as soon after one year after the death of the inmate as practicable. A complete permanent record of the property, showing by whom and with whom it was left, its amount when converted to money, the date of the death of the owner, the owner's reputed place of residence before becoming an inmate of the institution, the date on which the money was sent to the treasurer of state, and any other facts which may tend to identify the decedent and explain the case, shall be kept by the superintendent of the institution, and a transcript of the record shall be sent to and kept by the treasurer of state.

2. Money deposited with the treasurer of state pursuant to [this section](#) shall be paid at any time within ten years from the death of the inmate to any person who is shown to be entitled to it.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §45, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.67

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.509

C93, §904.509

904.510 Religious preference.

The superintendent receiving a person committed to any of the institutions shall ask the person to state the person's religious preference, shall enter the stated preference in a book kept for that purpose, and shall request that the person sign the entry. If the person is a minor and has formed no choice, the preference may be expressed at any later time by the person.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §26, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.36

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.510

C93, §904.510

904.511 Time for religion.

Any inmate, during the time of detention, shall be allowed for at least one hour on each Sunday or other holy day or in times of extreme sickness, and at other suitable and reasonable times consistent with proper discipline in the institution, to receive spiritual advice, instruction, and ministration from any recognized member of the clergy who represents the inmate's religious belief.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §27, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.37

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.511

C93, §904.511

904.512 Visits.

Members of the executive council, the attorney general, the lieutenant governor, members of the general assembly, judges of the supreme and district court and court of appeals, judicial magistrates, county attorneys, and persons ordained or designated as regular leaders of a religious community are authorized to visit all institutions under the control of the Iowa department of corrections at reasonable times. No other person shall be granted admission except by permission of the superintendent or district director, as applicable.

[84 Acts, ch 1004, §1](#)

C85, §217A.80

[85 Acts, ch 21, §28, 54](#)

CS85, §246.512

C93, §904.512

[2024 Acts, ch 1182, §69](#)

Section amended

904.513 Assignment of OWI violators to treatment facilities.

1. a. The department of corrections shall establish in each judicial district a continuum of programming for the supervision and treatment of offenders convicted of violating [chapter 321J](#) who are sentenced to the custody of the director. The continuum shall include a range of sanctioning options that include but are not limited to prisons and residential facilities.

b. (1) The department of corrections shall develop standardized assessment criteria for the assignment of offenders pursuant to [this chapter](#).

(2) Offenders convicted of violating [chapter 321J](#), sentenced to the custody of the director, and awaiting placement in a community residential substance use disorder treatment program for such offenders shall be placed in an institutional substance use disorder program for such offenders within sixty days of admission to the institution or as soon as practical. When placing offenders convicted of violating [chapter 321J](#) in community residential substance use disorder treatment programs for such offenders, the department shall give priority as appropriate to the placement of those offenders currently in institutional substance use disorder programs for such offenders. The department shall work with each judicial district to enable such offenders to enter community residential substance use disorder treatment programs at a level comparable to their prior institutional program participation.

(3) Assignment shall be for the purposes of risk management and substance use disorder treatment and may include education or work programs when the offender is not participating in other program components.

(4) Assignment may also be made on the basis of the offender's treatment program performance, as a disciplinary measure, for medical needs, and for space availability at community residential facilities. If there is insufficient space at a community residential facility, the court may order an offender to be released to the supervision of the district department, held in jail, or committed to the custody of the director for assignment to an appropriate correctional facility until there is sufficient space at a community residential facility.

2. Upon request by the director, a county shall provide temporary confinement for

offenders allegedly violating the conditions of assignment to a program under [this chapter](#), if space is available in the county. The department shall negotiate a reimbursement rate with each county. The amount to be reimbursed shall be determined by multiplying the number of days a person is confined by the average daily cost of confining a person in the county facility as negotiated with the department. A county holding offenders in jail due to insufficient space in a community residential facility shall be reimbursed. Payment shall be made upon submission of a voucher executed by the sheriff and approved by the director. A voucher seeking payment shall be submitted within thirty days of the end of a calendar quarter. If a voucher seeking payment is not made within thirty days of the end of the calendar quarter, the request shall be denied by the department.

3. The department shall adopt rules for the implementation of [this section](#). The rules shall include the requirement that the treatment programs established pursuant to [this chapter](#) meet the licensure standards of the department of health and human services under [chapter 125](#). The rules shall also include provisions for the funding of the program by means of self-contribution by the offenders, insurance reimbursement on behalf of offenders, or other forms of funding, program structure, criteria for the evaluation of offenders and programs, and all other issues the director shall deem appropriate.

[86 Acts, ch 1220, §26](#)

[C87, §246.513](#)

[87 Acts, ch 118, §1, 2; 90 Acts, ch 1251, §30; 91 Acts, ch 219, §9; 92 Acts, ch 1163, §57](#)

[C93, §904.513](#)

[96 Acts, ch 1165, §2; 2000 Acts, ch 1202, §1; 2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 2, §58, 209; 2006 Acts, ch 1010, §167; 2006 Acts, ch 1183, §24; 2012 Acts, ch 1030, §1; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1334, 1335; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §70, 71](#)

[Referred to in §321J.2, 462A.14](#)

[Subsection 1, paragraph a amended](#)

[Subsection 1, paragraph b, subparagraph \(4\) amended](#)

904.514 Required test.

1. A person committed to an institution under the control of the department who bites another person, who causes an exchange of bodily fluids with another person, or who causes any bodily secretion to be cast upon another person, shall submit to the withdrawal of a bodily specimen for testing to determine if the person is infected with a contagious infectious disease. The bodily specimen to be taken shall be determined by the staff physician of the institution. The specimen taken shall be sent to the state hygienic laboratory or some other laboratory approved by the department of health and human services. If a person to be tested pursuant to [this section](#) refuses to submit to the withdrawal of a bodily specimen, application may be made by the superintendent of the institution to the district court for an order compelling the person to submit to the withdrawal and, if infected, to available treatment. An order authorizing the withdrawal of a specimen for testing may be issued only by a district judge or district associate judge upon application by the superintendent or district director, as applicable, of the institution.

2. Failure to comply with an order issued pursuant to [this section](#) may result in the forfeiture of good conduct time, not to exceed one year, earned up to the time of the failure to comply.

3. Personnel at an institution under the control of the department shall be notified if a person committed to any of these institutions is found to have a contagious infectious disease.

4. The department shall adopt policies and procedures to prevent the transmittal of a contagious infectious disease to other persons.

5. For purposes of [this section](#), “*infectious disease*” means any infectious condition which if spread by contamination would place others at a serious health risk.

[87 Acts, ch 185, §1](#)

[CS87, §246.514](#)

[C93, §904.514](#)

[2018 Acts, ch 1041, §127; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1336; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §72](#)

[Subsections 1 and 3 amended](#)

904.515 Human immunodeficiency virus-related matters — exemption.

The provisions of [chapter 141A](#) relating to knowledge and consent do not apply to persons committed to the custody of the department. The department may provide for medically acceptable procedures to inform employees, visitors, and persons committed to the department of possible infection and to protect them from possible infection.

[88 Acts, ch 1234, §6](#)

C89, §246.515

C93, §904.515

[99 Acts, ch 181, §18](#)

904.516 Academic achievement of inmates — literacy and high school equivalency programs.

1. Effective July 1, 1997, a person who is committed to the custody of the director of the department of corrections may be evaluated for purposes of determining the level of achievement in the basic skills of arithmetic, the communicative arts of reading, writing, grammar, and spelling, social studies, and the sciences.

2. Persons who demonstrate functional literacy competence below the sixth grade level may be required to participate in literacy programs established by the department. Participation shall be voluntary, but shall be reflected as part of the person's record at the institution. Persons who are required to participate in literacy programs and who refuse to participate shall be subject to the following penalties:

- a. Eligibility only for a minimum allowance.
- b. Placement on idle status.
- c. Ineligibility for work bonuses.
- d. Ineligibility for minimum out or minimum live out status.
- e. Ineligibility for other privileges as determined by the department.

3. Persons who have not completed the requirements for high school or a high school equivalency diploma may be required to complete the requirements for and to obtain a high school equivalency diploma under [chapter 259A](#).

4. The department, in cooperation with the board of parole, shall adopt rules which establish a procedure for evaluation of inmates to determine basic skills achievement, and criteria for placement of inmates in educational programs. Rules adopted may include, but shall not be limited to, the establishment of standards for the development of appropriate programming, imposition of any applicable penalties, and for waiver of any educational requirements.

[95 Acts, ch 179, §1](#)

904.517 through 904.600 Reserved.

SUBCHAPTER VI**RECORDS — CONFIDENTIALITY****904.601 Records of inmates.**

1. The director shall keep the following record of every person committed to any of the department's institutions: Name, residence, sex, age, place of birth, occupation, civil condition, date of entrance or commitment, date of discharge, whether a discharge is final, condition of the person when discharged, the name of the institutions from which and to which the person has been transferred, and if the person is dead, the date and cause of death. The director may permit the department of administrative services to copy or reproduce by any photographic, photostatic, microfilm, microcard, or other process which accurately reproduces in a durable medium and to destroy in the manner described by law the records of inmates required by this paragraph.

2. The director shall keep other records for the use of the board of parole as the board of parole may request.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §22, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.32

[84 Acts, ch 1148, §3; 85 Acts, ch 21, §20, 54](#)

CS85, §246.601

C93, §904.601

[93 Acts, ch 48, §54; 2011 Acts, ch 132, §65, 106; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1422](#)

Referred to in [§216A.136](#)

904.602 Confidentiality of records — penalty.

1. The following information regarding individuals receiving or who have received services from the department or from the district departments is public information and may be given to anyone:

- a. Name.
- b. Age.
- c. Sex.
- d. Status (inmate, parolee, or probationer).
- e. Location, except home street address.
- f. Duration of supervision.
- g. Offense or offenses for which the individual was placed under supervision.
- h. County of commitment.
- i. Arrest and detention orders.
- j. Physical description.
- k. Type of services received.
- l. Disciplinary reports and decisions which have been referred to the county attorney or prosecutor for prosecution, and the following information of all other disciplinary reports:
 - (1) The name of the subject of the investigation.
 - (2) The alleged infraction involved.
 - (3) The finding of fact and the penalty, if any, imposed as a result of the infraction.

2. The following information regarding individuals receiving or who have received services from the department or from the district departments is confidential and shall not be disseminated by the department to the public:

- a. Home street address of the individual receiving or who has received services or that individual's family.
- b. Department evaluations.
- c. Medical, psychiatric or psychological information.
- d. Names of associates or accomplices.
- e. Name of employer.
- f. Social security number.
- g. Prior criminal history including information on offenses where no conviction occurred.
- h. Family and personal history.
- i. Financial information.
- j. Information from disciplinary reports and investigations other than that identified in [subsection 1, paragraph "l"](#).
- k. Investigations by the department or other agencies which are contained in the individual's file.
- l. Department committee records which include any information identified in paragraphs "a" through "k". A record containing information which is both public and confidential which is reasonably segregable shall not be confidential after deletion of the confidential information.
- m. Presentence investigations as provided under [chapter 901](#).
- n. Pretrial information that is not otherwise available in public court records or proceedings.
- o. Correspondence directed to department officers or staff from an individual's family, victims, or employers of a personal or confidential nature. If the custodian of the record

determines that the correspondence is confidential, in any proceeding under [chapter 22](#) the burden of proof shall be on the person seeking release of the correspondence, and the writer of the correspondence shall be notified of the proceeding.

3. Information identified in [subsection 2](#) shall not be disclosed or used by any person or agency except for purposes of the administration of the department's programs of services or assistance and shall not, except as otherwise provided in [this section](#), be disclosed by the department or be used by persons or agencies outside the department unless they are subject to, or agree to, comply with standards of confidentiality comparable to those imposed on the department by [this section](#).

4. [This section](#) does not restrict the disclosure or use of information regarding the cost, purpose, number of persons served or assisted by or results of any program administered by the department, and other general statistical information so long as the information does not identify particular individuals served or assisted except as provided in [subsection 1](#) of [this section](#).

5. Information restricted in [subsection 2](#) may be disclosed to persons or agencies with the approval of the director for the limited purpose of research and program evaluation or educational purposes when those persons or agencies agree to keep confidential that information restricted in [subsection 2](#), and any reports of the research shall not contain any of the information restricted in [subsection 2](#) except as allowed in [subsection 4](#). However, the persons or agencies eligible to receive information under [this subsection](#) include only those which are state employees or those whom the department retains under contract to perform the services.

6. Confidential information described in [subsection 2](#) may be disclosed to public officials for use in connection with their official duties relating to law enforcement, audits, and other purposes directly connected with the administration of their programs. Full disclosure by the department of any information on an individual may be made to the board of parole and to district departments, and the board and those district departments are subject to the same standards as the department in dissemination or redissemination of information on persons served or supervised by those district departments, and all provisions of [this section](#) pertain to the board of parole and to the district departments as a part of the department. Information may be disseminated about individuals while under the supervision of the department to public or private agencies to which persons served or supervised by the department are referred for specific services not otherwise provided by the department but only to the extent that the information is needed by those agencies to provide the services required, and they shall keep information received from the department confidential.

7. Information described in [subsection 2](#) which pertains to the name and address of the employer of an individual who is receiving or has received services shall be released upon request to an individual for the purpose of executing a judgment resulting from the individual's current or past criminal activity.

8. If it is established that a provision of [this section](#) would cause any of the department's programs of services or assistance to be ineligible for federal funds, the provision shall be limited or restricted to the extent which is essential to make the program eligible for federal funds. The department shall adopt, pursuant to [chapter 17A](#), rules necessary to implement [this subsection](#).

9. A supervised individual or former supervised individual shall be given access to the individual's own records in the custody of the department, except that records which could result in physical or psychological harm to another person or the supervised individual or adversely affect an investigation into a supervised individual's possible violation of departmental rules, shall not be disclosed without a court order. Psychiatric information may be withheld by the department if its release would jeopardize the supervised individual's treatment. Upon the supervised individual's written authorization, that information which the supervised individual has access to may be released to any third party. A reasonable fee for copying and services may be charged.

10. Regulations, procedures, and policies that govern the internal administration of the department and the district departments, which if released may jeopardize the secure operation of a correctional institution operation or program, are confidential unless otherwise

ordered by a court. These records include procedures on inmate movement and control; staffing patterns and regulations; emergency plans; internal investigations; equipment use and security; building plans, operation, and security; security procedures for inmates, staff, and visitors; daily operation records; and contraband and medicine control. These records are exempt from the public inspection requirements in [section 17A.3](#) and [section 22.2](#).

11. Violation of [this section](#) is a serious misdemeanor.

12. [This section](#) does not preclude the disclosure of otherwise confidential material if it is necessary to civil or criminal court proceedings. The review of the court may, however, limit the confidential information to an in camera inspection where the court determines that the confidential nature of the information needs to be protected.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §13, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.18

[84 Acts, ch 1148, §1; 85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.602

C93, §904.602

[94 Acts, ch 1142, §9, 10; 98 Acts, ch 1090, §77, 78, 84; 2014 Acts, ch 1026, §137; 2022 Acts, ch 1021, §177; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §73 – 75](#)

Referred to in [§216A.136, 901.4, 904.603](#)

Subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph 1 amended

Subsection 2, unnumbered paragraph 1 amended

Subsections 6 and 10 amended

904.603 Action for damages.

A person receiving or who has received services, or that person's family, victim, or employer may institute a civil action for damages under [chapter 669](#) or other action to restrain the release of confidential records set out in [section 904.602, subsection 2](#), which is in violation of that section. A person, agency, or governmental body proven to have released confidential records in violation of [section 904.602, subsection 2](#), is liable for actual damages for each violation and is liable for court costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the party bringing the action.

[83 Acts, ch 96, §14, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.19

[84 Acts, ch 1148, §2; 85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.603

C93, §904.603

[94 Acts, ch 1142, §11; 2023 Acts, ch 64, §102](#)

904.604 through 904.700 Reserved.

SUBCHAPTER VII

INMATE WORK

904.701 Services required — gratuitous allowances — hard labor — rules.

1. An inmate of an institution shall be required to perform hard labor which is suited to the inmate's age, gender, physical and mental condition, strength, and attainments in the institution proper, in the industries established in connection with the institution, or at such other places as may be determined by the director. Substantially equivalent hard labor programs shall be available to both male and female inmates. When an inmate of an institution is working outside the institution proper, the inmate shall be deemed at all times to be in the actual custody of the superintendent of the institution. Inmates performing hard labor on chain gangs at a location other than within or on the grounds of a correctional institution shall be attired in brightly colored uniforms that readily identify them as inmates of correctional institutions. Inmates performing other types of hard labor at locations other than within or on the grounds of a correctional institution may also be required by the department to wear the brightly colored uniforms. Inmates not required to wear brightly

colored uniforms while performing hard labor shall be otherwise clearly designated as inmates of correctional institutions. The employment of inmates in hard labor shall not displace employed workers, shall not be applied to skills, crafts, or trades in which a local surplus of labor exists, and shall not impair existing contracts for employment or services.

2. The director may when practicable pay the inmate an allowance as the director deems proper in view of the circumstances, and in view of the cost attending the maintenance of the inmate. The allowance is a gratuitous payment and is not a wage arising out of an employment relationship. The payment shall not exceed the amount paid to free labor for a like or equivalent service.

3. For purposes of [this section](#), “hard labor” means physical or mental labor which is performed for a period of time which shall average, as nearly as possible, forty hours each week, and may include useful and productive work, chain gangs, menial labor, treatment or education programs, any training necessary to perform any work required, and, if possible, work providing an inmate with marketable vocational skills. “Hard labor” does not include labor which is dangerous to an inmate’s life or health, is unduly painful, or is required to be performed under conditions that would violate occupational safety and health standards applicable to such labor if performed by a person who is not an inmate.

4. Notwithstanding [subsection 1](#), an inmate who has been determined by the director to be unsuitable for the performance of hard labor due to the inmate’s age, gender, physical or mental condition, strength, or security status shall not be required to perform hard labor.

5. The department shall adopt rules to implement [this section](#).

[83 Acts, ch 96, §33, 159](#)

[CS83, §217A.46](#)

[85 Acts, ch 21, §23, 54](#)

[CS85, §246.701](#)

[C93, §904.701](#)

[95 Acts, ch 166, §1; 96 Acts, ch 1216, §33](#)

Referred to in [§904.702](#)

See Iowa Acts for special provisions relating to reports concerning inmate labor in a given year

904.702 Deductions from inmate accounts.

1. If allowances are paid pursuant to [section 904.701](#), the director shall establish an inmate account, for deposit of those allowances and for deposit of moneys sent to the inmate from a source other than the department of corrections. The director may deduct an amount, not to exceed ten percent of the amount of the allowance, unless the inmate requests a larger amount, to be deposited into the inmate savings fund as required under [section 904.508, subsection 2](#). In addition to deducting a portion of the allowance, the director may also deduct from an inmate account any amount, except amounts directed to be deposited in the inmate telephone fund established in [section 904.508A](#), sent to the inmate from a source other than the department of corrections for deposit in the inmate savings fund as required under [section 904.508, subsection 2](#), until the amount in the fund equals the amount due the inmate upon discharge, parole, or placement on work release. The director shall deduct from the inmate account an amount the inmate is legally obligated to pay for child support. The director shall deduct from the inmate account an amount established by the inmate’s restitution plan of payment. The director shall also deduct from any remaining account balance an amount sufficient to pay all or part of any judgment against the inmate, including but not limited to judgments for taxes and child support, and court costs and fees assessed either as a result of the inmate’s confinement or amounts required to be paid under [section 610A.1](#). Written notice of the amount of the deduction shall be given to the inmate, who shall have five days after receipt of the notice to submit in writing any and all objections to the deduction to the director, who shall consider the objections prior to transmitting the deducted amount to the clerk of the district court. The director need give only one notice for each action or appeal under [section 610A.1](#) for which periodic deductions are to be made. The director shall next deduct from any remaining account balance an amount sufficient to pay all or part of any costs assessed against the inmate for misconduct or damage to the property of others. The director may deduct from the inmate’s account an amount sufficient to pay for the inmate’s share of

the costs of health services requested by the inmate and for the treatment of injuries inflicted by the inmate on the inmate or others. The director may deduct and disburse an amount sufficient for industries' programs to qualify under the eligibility requirements established in the Justice Assistance Act of 1984, Pub. L. No. 98-473, including an amount to pay all or part of the cost of the inmate's incarceration. The director may pay all or any part of remaining allowances paid pursuant to [section 904.701](#) directly to a dependent of the inmate, or may deposit the allowance to the account of the inmate, or may deposit a portion and allow the inmate a portion for the inmate's personal use.

2. The director and the department shall not be liable to any person for any damages caused by the withdrawal or failure to withdraw money or the payment or failure to make any payment under [this section](#).

[83 Acts, ch 96, §34, 159](#)

[CS83, §217A.47](#)

[85 Acts, ch 21, §24, 54; 85 Acts, ch 195, §24](#)

[CS85, §246.702](#)

[87 Acts, ch 13, §3; 88 Acts, ch 1166, §1; 91 Acts, ch 219, §10](#)

[C93, §904.702](#)

[95 Acts, ch 167, §6; 96 Acts, ch 1165, §3; 2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 2, §59, 209; 2006 Acts, ch 1183, §25](#)

Referred to in [§610A.1, 610A.3, 822.2, 904.508, 915.83](#)

904.703 Services of inmates — institutions and public service — inmate labor fund.

1. Inmates shall work on state account in the maintenance of state institutions, in the erection, repair, authorized demolition, or operation of buildings and works used in connection with the institutions, and in industries established and maintained in connection with the institutions by the director. The director shall encourage the making of agreements, including [chapter 28E](#) agreements, with departments and agencies of the state or its political subdivisions to provide products or services under an inmate work program to the departments and agencies. The director may implement an inmate work program for trustworthy inmates of state correctional institutions, under proper supervision, whether at work centers located outside the state correctional institutions or in construction or maintenance work at public or charitable facilities and for other agencies of state, county, or local government. The supervision, security, and transportation of, and allowances paid to inmates used in public service projects shall be provided pursuant to agreements, including [chapter 28E](#) agreements, made by the director and the agency for which the work is done. Housing and maintenance shall also be provided pursuant to the agreement, including a [chapter 28E](#) agreement, unless the inmate is housed and maintained in the correctional facility. All such work, including but not limited to that provided in [this section](#), shall have as its primary purpose the development of attitudes, skills, and habit patterns which are conducive to inmate rehabilitation. The director may adopt rules allowing inmates participating in an inmate work program to receive educational or vocational training outside the state correctional institutions and away from the work centers or public or charitable facilities used under a program.

2. An inmate shall not work in a public service project if the work of that inmate would replace a person employed by the state agency or political subdivision, which employee is performing the work of the public service project at the time the inmate is being considered for work in the project.

3. An inmate labor fund is established under the control of the department. All fees, grants, appropriations, or reimbursed costs received by the department and related to inmate labor shall be deposited into the fund, and the moneys shall be used by the department to offset staff and transportation costs related to providing inmate labor to public entities and to initiate or supplement other inmate labor activities within correctional institutions or throughout the state. Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys remaining in the fund at the

end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund of the state. Notwithstanding [section 12C.7](#), interest and earnings deposited in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

[S13, §5702-a; SS15, §5718-a11; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §3757; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §246.18]

[83 Acts, ch 51, §3, 7, 9](#); [83 Acts, ch 96, §159, 160](#)

CS83, §217A.78

[85 Acts, ch 21, §26, 54](#)

CS85, §246.703

[88 Acts, ch 1165, §2](#); [90 Acts, ch 1251, §31](#)

C93, §904.703

[98 Acts, ch 1086, §6](#); [99 Acts, ch 182, §5](#); [2004 Acts, ch 1106, §3](#); [2005 Acts, ch 67, §1](#)

Referred to in [§85.59](#), [669.2](#), [904.704](#), [904.802](#), [904.808](#)

904.704 Limitation on contracts.

The director or the superintendent or district director, as applicable, of the institutions shall not, nor shall any other person employed by the state, make any contract by which the labor or time of an inmate in the institution is given, loaned, or sold to any person unless as provided by [subchapter VIII](#) or [section 904.703](#).

[S13, §2727-a51, 5718-a28a; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §3764; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §246.25]

[83 Acts, ch 51, §4, 7, 9](#); [83 Acts, ch 96, §159, 160](#)

CS83, §217A.79

[85 Acts, ch 21, §27, 54](#)

CS85, §246.704

C93, §904.704

[2017 Acts, ch 54, §76](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1182, §76](#)

Section amended

904.705 Industries — forestry nurseries.

1. The director may establish industries at or in connection with any of the institutions under the director's control and may make contractual agreements with the United States, other states, state departments and agencies, and subdivisions of the state, for purchase of industry products.

2. The director may with the assistance of the department of natural resources establish and operate forestry nurseries on state-owned land under the control of the department. Residents of the adult correctional institutions shall provide the labor for the operation. Nursery stock shall be sold in accordance with the rules of the natural resource commission. The department shall pay the costs of establishing and operating the forestry nurseries out of the revolving farm fund created in [section 904.706](#). The department of natural resources shall pay the costs of transporting, sorting, and distributing nursery stock to and from or on state-owned land under the control of the department of natural resources. Receipts from the sale of nursery stock produced under [this section](#) shall be divided between the department and the department of natural resources in direct proportion to their respective costs as a percentage of the total costs. However, property taxes due and payable on the land shall be deducted before receipts of sale are divided between the two departments if land subject to [this section](#) is leased to an entity other than an entity which is exempt from property taxation under [section 427.1](#). The department shall deposit its receipts in the revolving farm fund created in [section 904.706](#).

[83 Acts, ch 96, §47, 159](#)

CS83, §217A.69

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.705

C93, §904.705

[2003 Acts, ch 130, §4, 5](#)

Referred to in [§427.1\(1\)\(b\)](#)

904.706 Revolving farm fund.

1. A revolving farm fund is created in the state treasury in which the department shall deposit receipts from agricultural products, nursery stock, agricultural land rentals, and the sale of livestock. However, before any agricultural operation is phased out, the department which proposes to discontinue this operation shall notify the governor, chairpersons and ranking members of the house and senate appropriations committees, and co-chairpersons and ranking members of the subcommittee in the senate and house of representatives which has handled the appropriation for this department in the past session of the general assembly. Before the department sells farmland under the control of the department, the director shall notify the governor, chairpersons and ranking members of the house and senate appropriations committees, and co-chairpersons and ranking members of the joint appropriations subcommittee that handled the appropriation for the department during the past session of the general assembly. The department may pay from the fund for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of farms and agricultural or nursery property under the control of the department. A purchase order for five thousand dollars or less payable from the fund is exempt from the general purchasing requirements of [chapter 8A, subchapter III](#). Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), unencumbered or unobligated receipts in the revolving farm fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund of the state.

2. Notwithstanding [section 8.36](#), the department shall annually prepare a financial statement covering the previous calendar year to provide for an accounting of the funds in the revolving farm fund. The financial statement shall be filed with the legislative services agency on or before February 1 each year.

3. As used in [this section](#), “department” means the department of corrections and the department of health and human services.

4. The farm operations administrator appointed under [section 904.302](#) shall perform the functions described under [section 904.302](#) for agricultural operations on property of the department of health and human services.

5. The department of health and human services shall enter into an agreement under [chapter 28D](#) with the Iowa department of corrections to implement [this section](#).

[83 Acts, ch 96, §48, 159](#)

[CS83, §217A.70](#)

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

[CS85, §246.706](#)

[86 Acts, ch 1075, §2; 89 Acts, ch 9, §1; 91 Acts, ch 260, §1221](#)

[C93, §904.706](#)

[2003 Acts, ch 35, §45, 49; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §283; 2017 Acts, ch 54, §76; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1337](#)

Referred to in [§218.78, 427.1\(1\)\(b\), 904.302, 904.705](#)

904.707 Apprenticeship programs — limitations.

An inmate shall not be enrolled in an apprenticeship program if the inmate would be unable to obtain a necessary license to practice the profession to which the apprenticeship relates due to the inmate’s conviction of a felony. Prior to enrolling an inmate in an apprenticeship program, the department of corrections shall receive written confirmation from the appropriate licensing board that the inmate would be able to receive a necessary license to practice the profession to which the apprenticeship relates if it appears to the department that the inmate may be disqualified from receiving such a license.

[2019 Acts, ch 99, §13](#)

904.708 through 904.800 Reserved.

SUBCHAPTER VIII

IOWA STATE INDUSTRIES

Referred to in [§904.704](#)

904.801 Statement of intent.

It is the intent of [this subchapter](#) that there be made available to inmates of the state correctional institutions opportunities for work in meaningful jobs with the following objectives:

1. To develop within those inmates willing to accept and persevere in such work:
 - a. Positive attitudes which will enable them to eventually function as law-abiding, self-supporting members of the community;
 - b. Good work habits that will assist them in eventually securing and holding gainful employment outside the correctional system; and
 - c. To the extent feasible, marketable skills that can lead directly to gainful employment upon release from a correctional institution.
2. To enable those inmates willing to accept and persevere in such work to:
 - a. Provide or assist in providing for their dependents, thus tending to strengthen the inmates' family ties while reducing the likelihood that inmates' families will have to rely upon public assistance for subsistence;
 - b. Make restitution, as the opportunity to do so becomes available, to the victims of the offenses for which the inmates were incarcerated, so as to assist the inmates in accepting responsibility for the consequences of their acts;
 - c. Make it feasible to require that such inmates pay some portion of the cost of board and maintenance in a correctional institution, in a manner similar to what would be necessary if they were employed in the community; and
 - d. Accumulate savings so that such inmates will have funds for necessities upon their eventual return to the community.

[C79, 81, §216.1; [82 Acts, ch 1007, §1](#)]

[85 Acts, ch 21, §1, 2, 54](#)

CS85, §246.801

C93, §904.801

[2017 Acts, ch 54, §76](#)

Referred to in [§904.804, 904.809, 904.814](#)

904.802 Definitions.

As used in [this subchapter](#):

1. “*Iowa state industries*” means prison industries that are established and maintained by the Iowa department of corrections at or adjacent to the state’s adult correctional institutions, except that an inmate work program established by the state director under [section 904.703](#) is not restricted to industries at or adjacent to the institutions.

2. “*State director*” means the director of the Iowa department of corrections, or the director’s designee.

[C79, 81, §216.2; [82 Acts, ch 1007, §2, ch 1100, §3](#)]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §61, 159; 85 Acts, ch 21, §3, 54](#)

CS85, §246.802

C93, §904.802

[94 Acts, ch 1023, §72; 2017 Acts, ch 54, §76; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §353, 354](#)

Referred to in [§8A.311, 262.34A](#)

Subsection 1 stricken

Former subsection 2 amended and renumbered as 1

Former subsection 3 renumbered as 2

904.803 Prison industries advisory board. Repealed by 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §368.

904.804 Duties of department — state industries.

The department shall adopt rules to further the intent stated by [section 904.801](#).

[C79, 81, §216.4]

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.804

C93, §904.804

[2024 Acts, ch 1170, §355](#)

Section amended

904.805 Duties of state director.

The state director shall:

1. Conduct market studies and consult with public bodies and officers who are listed in [section 904.807](#), and with other potential purchasers, for the purpose of determining items or services needed and design features desired or required by potential purchasers of Iowa state industries products or services.

2. Receive, investigate, and take appropriate action upon any complaints from potential purchasers of Iowa state industries products or services regarding lack of cooperation by Iowa state industries with public bodies and officers who are listed in [section 904.807](#), and with other potential purchasers.

3. Establish, transfer, and close industrial operations as deemed advisable to maximize opportunities for gainful work for inmates and to adjust to actual or potential market demand for particular products or services.

4. Establish and from time to time adjust, as necessary, levels of allowances paid to inmates working in Iowa state industries.

5. Coordinate Iowa state industries, and other opportunities for gainful work available to inmates of adult correctional institutions, with vocational and technical training opportunities and apprenticeship programs, to the greatest extent feasible.

6. Promote, plan, and when deemed advisable, assist in the location of privately owned and operated industrial enterprises on the grounds of adult correctional institutions, pursuant to [section 904.809](#).

[C79, 81, §216.5; [82 Acts, ch 1007, §3](#)]

[85 Acts, ch 21, §5 – 7, 54](#)

CS85, §246.805

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §1505](#); [88 Acts, ch 1165, §3](#)

C93, §904.805

[2022 Acts, ch 1032, §104](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1170, §356](#)

Unnumbered paragraph 1 amended

904.806 Authority of state director not impaired.

Nothing in [this subchapter](#) shall be construed to impair the authority of the state director over the adult correctional institutions of this state, nor over the inmates thereof.

[C79, 81, §216.6]

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.806

C93, §904.806

[2017 Acts, ch 54, §76](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1170, §357](#)

Section amended

904.807 Price lists to public officials.

The state director shall cause to be prepared from time to time classified and itemized price lists of the products manufactured by Iowa state industries. Such lists shall be furnished to all boards of supervisors, boards of directors of school corporations, city councils, and all other state, county, city and school departments and officials empowered to purchase supplies and equipment for public purposes.

[C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, [§3760](#); C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §246.21; C79, 81, §216.7]

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.807

C93, §904.807

Referred to in [§904.805](#), [904.808](#)

904.808 State purchasing requirements — exceptions.

1. A product possessing the performance characteristics of a product listed in the price lists prepared pursuant to [section 904.807](#) shall not be purchased by any department or agency of state government from a source other than Iowa state industries, except:

a. When the purchase is made under emergency circumstances, which shall be explained in writing by the public body or officer who made or authorized the purchase if the state director so requests; or

b. When the state director releases, in writing, the obligation of the department or agency to purchase the product from Iowa state industries, after determining that Iowa state industries is unable to meet the performance characteristics of the purchase request for the product, and a copy of the release is attached to the request to the director of the department of administrative services for payment for a similar product, or when Iowa state industries is unable to furnish needed products, comparable in both quality and price to those available from alternative sources, within a reasonable length of time. Any disputes arising between a purchasing department or agency and Iowa state industries regarding similarity of products, or comparability of quality or price, or the availability of the product, shall be referred to the director of the department of administrative services, whose decision shall be subject to appeal as provided in [section 8A.313](#). However, if the purchasing department is the department of administrative services, any matter which would be referred to the director under this paragraph shall be referred to the executive council in the same manner as if the matter were to be heard by the director of the department of administrative services. The decision of the executive council is final.

2. The state director shall adopt and update as necessary rules setting specific delivery schedules for each of the products manufactured by Iowa state industries. These delivery schedules shall not apply where a different delivery schedule is specifically negotiated by Iowa state industries and a particular purchaser.

3. A department or agency of the state shall cooperate and enter into agreements, if possible, for the provision of products and services under an inmate work program established by the state director under [section 904.703](#).

[C79, 81, §216.8; [82 Acts, ch 1007, §4](#)]

[83 Acts, ch 203, §14](#); [85 Acts, ch 21, §8, 54](#)

CS85, §246.808

[88 Acts, ch 1071, §1](#)

C93, §904.808

[94 Acts, ch 1023, §73](#); [2003 Acts, ch 145, §284](#)

Referred to in [§8A.302](#), [8A.311](#), [8A.313](#)

904.809 Private industry employment of inmates of correctional institutions.

1. The following conditions shall apply to all agreements to provide private industry employment for inmates of correctional institutions:

a. The state director shall comply with the intent of [section 904.801](#).

b. An inmate shall not be compelled to take private industry employment.

c. Inmates shall receive allowances commensurate with those wages paid persons in similar jobs outside the correctional institutions. This may include piece rating in which the inmate is paid only for what is produced.

d. Employment of inmates in private industry shall not displace employed workers, apply to skills, crafts, or trades in which there is a local surplus of labor, or impair existing contracts for employment or services.

e. Inmates employed in private industry shall be eligible for workers' compensation in accordance with [section 85.59](#).

f. Inmates employed in private industry shall not be eligible for unemployment compensation while incarcerated.

g. The state director shall implement a system for screening and security of inmates to protect the safety of the public.

2. a. Any other provision of the Code to the contrary notwithstanding, the state director may lease one or more buildings or portions thereof on the grounds of any state adult

correctional institution, together with the real estate needed for reasonable access to and egress from the leased buildings, for a term not to exceed twenty years, to a private corporation for the purpose of establishing and operating a factory for the manufacture and processing of products, or any other commercial enterprise deemed by the state director to be consistent with the intent stated in [section 904.801](#).

b. Each lease negotiated and concluded under [this subsection](#) shall include, and shall be valid only so long as the lessee adheres to, the following provisions:

(1) Persons working in the factory or other commercial enterprise operated in the leased property, except the lessee's supervisory employees and necessary support personnel approved by the state director, shall be inmates of the institution where the leased property is located who are approved for such work by the state director and the lessee.

(2) The factory or other commercial enterprise operated in the leased property shall observe at all times such practices and procedures regarding security as the lease may specify, or as the state director may temporarily stipulate during periods of emergency.

3. The state director may provide an inmate workforce to private industry. Under the program inmates will be employees of a private business.

4. Private or nonprofit organizations may subcontract with Iowa state industries to perform work in Iowa state industries shops located on the grounds of a state institution. The execution of the subcontract is subject to the following conditions:

a. The private employer shall pay to Iowa state industries a per unit price sufficient to fund allowances for inmate workers commensurate with similar jobs outside corrections institutions.

b. Iowa state industries shall negotiate a per unit price which takes into account staff supervision and equipment provided by Iowa state industries.

5. a. (1) An inmate of a correctional institution employed pursuant to [this section](#) shall surrender to the department of corrections the inmate's total earnings less deductions for federal, state, and local taxes, and any other payroll deductions required by law.

(2) The inmate's employer shall provide each employed inmate with the withholding statement required under [section 422.16](#), and any other employment information necessary for the receipt of the remainder of an inmate's payroll earnings.

b. From the inmate's gross payroll earnings, the following amounts shall be deducted:

(1) Twenty percent, to be deposited in the inmate's general account.

(2) All required tax deductions, to be collected by the inmate's employer.

(3) Five percent, to be deducted for the victim compensation fund created in [section 915.94](#).

c. From the balance remaining after deduction of the amounts under paragraph "b", the following amounts shall be deducted in the following order of priority:

(1) An amount which the inmate may be legally obligated to pay for the support of the inmate's dependents, which shall be paid through the department of health and human services collection services center, and which shall include an amount for delinquent child support not to exceed fifty percent of net earnings.

(2) Restitution as ordered by the court under [chapter 910](#).

(3) The department may retain up to fifty percent of any remaining balance after deductions made under subparagraphs (1) and (2) if the remaining balance is from an inmate employed in a new job created on or after July 1, 2004. The funds shall be used to staff supervision costs of private sector employment of inmates at correctional institutions. Funds retained pursuant to this subparagraph shall not be used for administrative costs of Iowa state industries.

(4) Any balance remaining after the deductions made under subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3) shall represent the costs of the inmate's incarceration and shall be deposited in the general fund of the state.

d. Of the amount credited to the inmate's general account, the department shall deduct an amount representing any other legal or administrative financial obligations of the inmate.

[C79, 81, §216.10]

[85 Acts, ch 21, §10, 54](#)

CS85, §246.809

C93, §904.809

93 Acts, ch 46, §7; 97 Acts, ch 190, §6; 98 Acts, ch 1090, §79, 84; 99 Acts, ch 182, §6; 2000 Acts, ch 1154, §44; 2004 Acts, ch 1175, §203, 204; 2013 Acts, ch 30, §261; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1338; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §358 – 361

Referred to in §8A.311, 85.59, 904.805, 904.814

Subsection 1, paragraph a amended

Subsection 2, paragraph a amended

Subsection 2, paragraph b, subparagraph (1) amended

Subsection 3 amended

904.810 and 904.811 Reserved.

904.812 Restriction on goods made available.

Effective July 1, 1978, and notwithstanding any other provisions of [this subchapter](#), goods made available by Iowa state industries shall be restricted to items, materials, supplies, and equipment which are formulated or manufactured by Iowa state industries and shall not include goods, materials, supplies, or equipment which are merely purchased by Iowa state industries for repacking or resale except with approval of the state director when such repacking for resale items are directly related to product lines.

[C79, 81, §216.12]

CS83, §216.14

85 Acts, ch 21, §54

CS85, §246.812

C93, §904.812

2017 Acts, ch 54, §76; 2022 Acts, ch 1032, §105

904.813 Industries revolving fund — uses.

1. There is established in the treasury of the state a permanent Iowa state industries revolving fund. This revolving fund shall be created by the transfer thereto of all moneys in the revolving fund formerly established under [section 246.26](#) as that section appeared in the Code of 1977 and prior editions, and shall be maintained by depositing therein all receipts from the sale of products manufactured by Iowa state industries, and from sale of any property of Iowa state industries found by the state director to be obsolete or unneeded.

2. a. The Iowa state industries revolving fund shall be used only for the following purposes:

(1) Establishment, maintenance, transfer, or closure of industrial operations, or vocational, technical, and related training facilities and services for inmates as authorized by the state director.

(2) Direct purchases from vendors of raw materials and capital items used for the manufacturing processes of Iowa state industries, in accordance with rules which meet state bidding requirements. The rules shall be adopted by the state director.

b. Payments from the revolving fund, other than salary payments, shall be made directly to the vendors.

3. The Iowa state industries revolving fund shall not be used for the operation of farms at any adult correctional institution unless such farms are operated directly by Iowa state industries.

4. The fund established by [this section](#) shall not revert to the general fund of the state at the end of any annual or biennial period and the investment proceeds earned from the balance of the fund shall be credited to the fund and used for the purposes provided for in [this section](#).

[C27, 31, 35, §3764-b1, 3764-b2, 3764-b3; C39, §3764.1, 3764.2, 3764.3; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, §246.26, 246.27, 246.28; C79, 81, §216.9; 82 Acts, ch 1007, §5]

83 Acts, ch 96, §62, 159; 83 Acts, ch 203, §15; 85 Acts, ch 21, §9, 54

CS85, §246.813

88 Acts, ch 1048, §1

C93, §904.813

2013 Acts, ch 30, §226; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §362

Subsection 2, paragraph a, subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3) amended

904.814 Inmate allowance supplement revolving fund.

There is established in the treasury of the state a permanent adult correctional institutions inmate allowance supplement revolving fund, consisting solely of money paid as board and maintenance by inmates working in Iowa state industries, or working pursuant to [section 904.809](#). The fund established by [this section](#) may be used to supplement the allowances of inmates who perform other institutional work within and about the adult correctional institutions including those who are working in Iowa state industries. Payments made from the fund shall supplement and not replace all or any part of the allowances otherwise received by, and shall be equably distributed among such inmates. The work of inmates in other institutional or industry work shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be in accord with the intent stated in [section 904.801](#). The fund may also be used to supplement other rehabilitation activities within the adult correctional institutions. Determination of the use of the funds is the responsibility of the state director.

[C79, 81, §216.11; [82 Acts, ch 1149, §3](#)]

C83, §216.13

[85 Acts, ch 21, §12, 54](#)

CS85, §246.814

C93, §904.814

[2024 Acts, ch 1170, §363](#)

Section amended

904.815 Sale of products.

1. Iowa state industries may produce and sell products to any tax-supported institution or governmental subdivision in any level of government which includes the state, county, city, or school corporation. Iowa state industries may sell products to employees of those entities.

2. Iowa state industries may sell products to nonprofit organizations including parochial schools, churches, or fraternal organizations.

3. Iowa state industries may sell products to nonprofit health care facilities serving Medicaid or social security patients.

[88 Acts, ch 1230, §5](#)

C93, §904.815

904.816 through 904.900 Reserved.

SUBCHAPTER IX

WORK RELEASE

Referred to in [§422.7\(6\)\(a\)](#), [422.7\(7\)\(a\)](#), [422.35](#)

904.901 Work release program.

The Iowa department of corrections, in consultation with the board of parole, shall establish a work release program under which the board of parole may grant inmates sentenced to an institution under the jurisdiction of the department the privilege of leaving actual confinement during necessary and reasonable hours for the purpose of working at gainful employment. Under appropriate conditions the program may also include an out-of-state work or treatment placement or release for the purpose of seeking employment, attendance at an educational institution, or family visitation. An inmate may be placed on work release status in the inmate's own home, under appropriate circumstances, which may include child care and housekeeping in the inmate's own home. This work release program is in addition to the institutional work release program established in [section 904.910](#).

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §247A.2]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §103, 159; 84 Acts, ch 1244, §1; 85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.901

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §1506; 87 Acts, ch 118, §3; 91 Acts, ch 219, §11](#)

C93, §904.901

[93 Acts, ch 46, §8](#)

Referred to in [§904.910, 906.1](#)

904.902 Work release — persons serving mandatory minimum sentence.

An inmate serving a mandatory minimum sentence of one year or more, who is approved to participate in the work release program, shall serve the final six months of the inmate's mandatory minimum sentence performing labor in the program. Duties, if possible, shall consist of physical labor in plain view of the public. However, an inmate shall not be required to perform work which is beyond an inmate's physical ability, which constitutes a physical hardship, or which is dangerous or threatening to the inmate's life or health, medically prohibited, or unduly painful.

[90 Acts, ch 1251, §32](#)

C91, §246.902

C93, §904.902

Referred to in [§906.1](#)

904.903 Agreement by inmate.

An inmate approved to participate in the work release program shall sign a work release agreement. The agreement shall include all terms and conditions of the particular plan adopted for the inmate by the board of parole and shall include a statement that the inmate agrees to abide by all terms and conditions in the agreement. The agreement shall be signed by the inmate prior to participation in the program. Following the release of the inmate, the agreement may be terminated by the department in accordance with rules of the department.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §247A.4]

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.903

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §1507](#)

C93, §904.903

[93 Acts, ch 98, §1](#)

Referred to in [§906.1](#)

904.904 Housing facilities — halfway houses.

Unless the inmate returns after working hours to the institution under jurisdiction of the department, the department shall coordinate with a district department for the quartering and supervision of the inmate in local housing facilities. The board of parole shall include as a specific term or condition in the work release plan of any inmate the place where the inmate is to be housed when not on the work assignment. The board of parole shall not place an inmate on work release for longer than six months in any twelve-month period unless approval is given by a majority of the full board of parole. Inmates may be temporarily released to the supervision of a responsible person to participate in family and selected community, religious, educational, social, civic, and recreational activities when it is determined that the participation will directly facilitate the release transition from institution to community. The department shall provide a copy of the work release plan and a copy of any restitution plan of payment to the district department quartering and supervising the inmate.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §247A.5]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §105, 159; 85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.904

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §1508](#)

C93, §904.904

[97 Acts, ch 130, §6; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §77](#)

Referred to in [§904.910, 906.1](#)

Section amended

904.905 Surrender of earnings.

1. An inmate employed in the community under a work release plan shall surrender to the district department the inmate's total earnings less payroll deductions required by law. The district department shall deduct from the earnings in the following order of priority:

a. An amount the inmate may be legally obligated to pay for the support of the inmate's dependents, the amount of which shall be paid to the dependents through the department of health and human services.

b. Restitution as ordered by the court pursuant to [chapter 910](#).

c. An amount determined to be the cost to the district department for providing food, lodging, and clothing for the inmate while under the program.

d. Any other financial obligations which are acknowledged by the inmate or any unsatisfied judgment against the inmate.

2. Any balance remaining after deductions and payments shall be credited to the inmate's personal account at the district department and shall be paid to the inmate upon release. An inmate so employed shall be paid a fair and reasonable wage in accordance with the prevailing wage scale for such work and shall work at fair and reasonable hours per day and per week.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §247A.7]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §106, 157, 159; 84 Acts, ch 1184, §16; 85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.905

C93, §904.905

[94 Acts, ch 1142, §12; 2013 Acts, ch 30, §227; 2014 Acts, ch 1092, §150; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1339; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §78](#)

Referred to in [§904.910, 906.1](#)

Section amended

904.906 Status of inmates on work release.

An inmate employed in the community under [this chapter](#) is not an agent, employee, or involuntary servant of the department of corrections or the board of parole while released from confinement under the terms of a work release plan. If an inmate suffers an injury arising out of or in the course of the inmate's employment under [this chapter](#), the inmate's recovery shall be from the insurance carrier of the employer of the project and no proceedings for compensation shall be maintained against the insurance carrier of the state institution or the state and there is no employer-employee relationship between the inmate and the state institution or the board of parole.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §247A.8]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §107, 159; 85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.906

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §1509](#)

C93, §904.906

[2024 Acts, ch 1182, §79](#)

Referred to in [§906.1](#)

Section amended

904.907 Parole not affected.

[This subchapter](#) does not affect eligibility for parole under [chapter 906](#) or diminution of confinement of any inmate released under a work release plan.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §247A.9]

[83 Acts, ch 101, §55; 85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.907

C93, §904.907

[2017 Acts, ch 54, §76](#)

Referred to in [§906.1](#)

904.908 Alleged work release violators — temporary confinement by counties — reimbursement.

1. Upon request by the Iowa department of corrections or the board of parole, a county shall provide temporary confinement for alleged violators of work release conditions if space is available.

2. The Iowa department of corrections shall negotiate a reimbursement rate with each county for the temporary confinement of alleged violators of work release conditions who are in the custody of or who are housed or supervised by the director of the Iowa department of corrections. The amount to be reimbursed shall be determined by multiplying the number of

days a person is confined by the average daily cost of confining a person in the county facility as negotiated with the department. Payment shall be made upon submission of a voucher executed by the sheriff and approved by the director of the Iowa department of corrections.

3. Any request for reimbursement under [subsection 2](#) shall be made within thirty days of the end of a calendar quarter. If a request for reimbursement is not made within thirty days of the end of the calendar quarter, the request shall be denied by the department.

[C79, 81, §247A.10]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §108, 159; 83 Acts, ch 123, §95, 209; 84 Acts, ch 1244, §2; 85 Acts, ch 21, §40, 54](#)

CS85, §246.908

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §1510](#)

C93, §904.908

[2006 Acts, ch 1183, §26; 2012 Acts, ch 1030, §2; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §80](#)

Referred to in [§331.427, 906.1](#)

Subsections 1 and 2 amended

904.909 Work release and OWI violators — reimbursement to department for transportation costs.

The department of corrections shall arrange for the return of a work release client, or offender convicted of violating [chapter 321J](#), who escapes from the facility to which the client is assigned or violates the conditions of supervision. The client or offender shall reimburse the department of corrections for the cost of transportation incurred because of the escape or violation. The amount of reimbursement shall be the actual cost incurred by the department and shall be credited to the support account from which the billing occurred. The director of the department of corrections shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to implement [this section](#).

[83 Acts, ch 51, §1, 7, 9; 83 Acts, ch 96, §159, 160](#)

CS83, §247A.11

[85 Acts, ch 21, §54](#)

CS85, §246.909

[88 Acts, ch 1091, §1; 91 Acts, ch 219, §12](#)

C93, §904.909

[93 Acts, ch 46, §9; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §364](#)

Referred to in [§906.1](#)

Section amended

904.910 Institutional work release program.

1. In addition to the work release program established in [section 904.901](#), the department of corrections shall establish an institutional work release program for each institution. The program shall provide that the department may grant inmates sentenced to an institution under its jurisdiction the privilege of leaving actual confinement during necessary and reasonable hours for the purpose of working at gainful employment. Under appropriate conditions, the program may also include an out-of-state work or treatment placement or release for the purpose of seeking employment or attendance at an educational institution. An inmate may be placed on work release status in the inmate's own home, under appropriate circumstances, which may include child care and housekeeping in the inmate's own home.

2. A committee shall be established by the department for the work release program at each institution to review applications for participation in the program.

3. An inmate who is eligible to participate in the work release program may apply to the superintendent of the institution for permission to participate in the program. The application shall include a statement that, if the application is approved, the inmate agrees to abide by all terms and conditions of the inmate's work release plan adopted by the committee. In addition, the application shall state the name and address of the proposed employer, if any, and shall contain other information as required by the committee. The committee may approve, disapprove, or defer action on the application. If the application is approved, the committee shall adopt an institutional work release plan for the applicant. The plan shall contain the elements required by [this section](#) and other conditions as the

committee deems necessary and proper. The plan shall be signed by the inmate prior to participation in the program. Approval of a plan may be revoked at any time by the superintendent or the committee.

4. An inmate in local facilities as provided in [section 904.904](#) may be housed and supervised by a district department. The institutional work release plan shall indicate the place where the inmate is to be housed when not on work assignment. The plan shall not allow for placement of an inmate on work release for more than six months in any twelve-month period without unanimous committee approval to do so. However, an inmate may be temporarily released to the supervision of a responsible person to participate in family and selected community, religious, educational, social, civic, and recreational activities when the committee determines that the participation will directly facilitate the release of the inmate from the institution to the community. The department shall provide a copy of the work release plan and a copy of any restitution plan of payment to the district department housing and supervising the inmate.

5. An inmate employed in the community under an institutional work release plan approved pursuant to [this section](#) shall surrender the inmate's total earnings less payroll deductions required by law to the superintendent, or to the district department if it is housing or supervising the inmate. The superintendent or the district department shall deduct from the earnings in the priority established in [section 904.905](#).

6. The department of corrections shall adopt rules for the implementation of [this section](#).

[91 Acts, ch 219, §13](#)

CS91, §246.910

C93, §904.910

[2024 Acts, ch 1182, §81](#)

Referred to in [§901B.1, 904.901](#)

Subsections 4 and 5 amended

904.911 Residential facility residency requirement — certain felons.

A person who is serving a sentence under [section 902.12](#), the maximum term of which exceeds ten years, and who is released on parole or work release shall reside in a residential facility operated by the district department until such time as the district department recommends to the board of parole that the person may be supervised in the community rather than in a residential facility and the board of parole approves the recommendation.

[2003 Acts, ch 156, §15](#)

CS2003, §905.11

[2016 Acts, ch 1051, §2; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §93](#)

C2025, §904.911

Section transferred from §905.11 in Code 2025 pursuant to directive in 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §93

904.912 Fees for probation and parole.

1. A person placed on probation or parole and subject to supervision by a district department shall be required to pay an enrollment fee of three hundred dollars to the district department to offset the costs of supervision. In addition to the enrollment fee, the district department may require a person to pay a fee to the district department to offset the costs of providing sex offender programming to that person.

2. The fees established pursuant to [this section](#) shall not be waived by the sentencing court. Each district department shall retain fees collected for administrative and program services.

3. The department may adopt rules for the administration of [this section](#). If adopted, the rules shall include a provision for waiving the collection of fees for persons determined to be unable to pay.

[97 Acts, ch 190, §7](#)

CS1997, §905.14

[2000 Acts, ch 1229, §24; 2006 Acts, ch 1183, §27; 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §86, 93](#)

C2025, §904.912

Referred to in [§321J.2, 907.3, 907.7, 907.9](#)

Section transferred from §905.14 in Code 2025 pursuant to directive in 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §93

Subsection 3 amended

904.913 Electronic tracking and monitoring system — domestic abuse assault — felony.

1. A person placed on probation, parole, work release, or any other type of conditional release for domestic abuse assault in violation of [section 708.2A, subsection 4](#), may be supervised by an electronic tracking and monitoring system in addition to any other conditions of supervision.

2. When considering whether to order the use of an electronic tracking and monitoring system the court shall consider the safety of the victim and other legitimate factors that may impact all of the parties.

[2017 Acts, ch 83, §9](#)

C2018, §905.16

[2024 Acts, ch 1182, §93](#)

C2025, §904.913

Section transferred from §905.16 in Code 2025 pursuant to directive in 2024 Acts, ch 1182, §93