

HB 1897 -- CORRECTIONAL CENTER NURSERIES

SPONSOR: DeGroot

This bill establishes the "Correctional Center Nursery Program", which requires the Missouri Department of Corrections to establish a Correctional Center Nursery in one or more centers operated by the Department. Mothers who are inmates shall be permitted to reside with infants for up to 18 months. The program has no effect on child custody and participation is at the discretion of the Department rather than sentencing courts.

Conditions for placement into the program are mandated by the bill and inmates must enter into a written agreement. Conditions for removal from the program are also specified in the bill.

The program is paid for by the "Correctional Center Nursery Program Fund" which is created by the bill and which can receive funds by appropriation, assignment of child support by inmates, and gifts, grants, and donations.

The program is subject to regulation only by the Department of Corrections, but can agree to voluntary regulation, licensing, or oversight by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

The bill authorizes rulemaking by the Department of Corrections for administration of the program.

This bill is similar to SB 834 (2022).