

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Bluegrass Bill	Blue BG 12						
	Referred to Committee: House 1						
Authors: Lily Jasper, Veronica Hamilton, Elliot Adkins, Andrew Mazarakis	Action on the Bill <table> <tr> <th>House</th> <th>Senate</th> </tr> <tr> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	House	Senate	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
House		Senate					
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School: Shelby West MS							
City: Shelbyville							

1 An act to Provide Treatment for Addicts in Jail.

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3 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

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5 Section 1: Drugs, as most of you know, have become a major issue in Kentucky as well as the whole
6 country. Just in Kentucky, the rate of death caused by drug overdose has increased 13%. Most of these
7 deaths occur when addicts first get released from jail after being incarcerated on drug related charges.
8 our bill will break the cycle of addiction by making drug treatment mandatory for all addicts in jail. Jail
9 or prison should be a place where people can get the help they need. Untreated drug offenders are
10 more likely to relapse into drug use and criminal behavior, jeopardizing public health and safety and
11 taxing criminal justice system resources. However, research also shows that treatment can help many
12 drug using offenders change their attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors; avoid relapse; and successfully
13 remove themselves from a life of substance use and crime. Treatment can cut drug use in half, decrease
14 criminal activity, and reduce arrests.

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16 Section 2: While some jails and prisons in Kentucky provide treatment for drug abusers, our bill will
17 make drug abuse treatment mandatory for all felons arrested and jailed on drug related crimes. Drug
18 addicts will attend classes and Cognitive Behavior Therapy that has been proven to be effective in
19 treating addiction behaviors. This treatment in prison will be followed up with treatment by a
20 community-based treatment program after release from jail.

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22 Section 3: The funding for the program will come from the criminal justice budget for the state. Instead
23 of spending millions, \$500 a second in our country, on fighting the war on drugs, we propose to focus
24 more on helping users than the drugs. This program will actually save our state money in the future.
25 Treatment consistently has been shown to reduce the costs associated with lost jobs, crime, and
26 incarceration caused by drug use. Treatment can cut drug use in half, decrease criminal activity, and
27 reduce arrests, If a felon refuses treatment, he/she will not be granted probation or parole for good
28 behavior and will have to serve their full sentence.

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30 Section 4: This will take effect on Jan. 1, 2018.