KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION **KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY** **Legislative Bill**	**Blue | Bill # 18** **Referred to Committee: House 1**
Authors: Wally Johnson, Morgan Martinez, Erin Kemper **School:** Newport Central Catholic HS **City:** Newport	**Action on the Bill** House: ____ ☐ Passed ____ ☐ Defeated Senate: ____ ☐ Passed ____ ☐ Defeated

An act to reduce overcrowding in the KY penal system through the rehabilitation of 1st time offenders convicted of possession of Schedule I or Schedule 2 substances

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

Section 1: Any person convicted of possession of a Schedule I or Schedule II substance and determined to suffer from addiction to that substance may receive rehabilitation treatment instead of serving time in prison. The offender will have the option to enter rehabilitation or serving his/her sentence. This option only applies to persons serving time for the first offense of Schedule I and II substance possession.

Section 2: This bill will affect inmates who are currently indicted on charges of Schedule I and II possession charges and up to two other misdemeanors with a maximum sentence of one year. Any persons indicted following the passage of this bill will also be eligible.

Section 3: A person convicted of a violent crime is not eligible for this program.

Section 4: Similar to an actual prison sentence, those convicted will not be allowed to leave the rehabilitation center premises. Because they will be under constant treatment and regulation, they will not be considered for parole unless they show strong indicators of healing. These indicators or benchmarks will be determined by health professionals at the center.

Section 5: A person determined unsuccessful in the treatment program will be required to complete his/her sentence in state prison. Option for parole is determined by the prison officials following the return to prison.

Section 6: The funding for this program comes from the Kentucky Department of Corrections. Currently, it costs the state upwards of $20,000 a year for normal prison detention, while it only costs about $6,000 a year for rehabilitation.

Section 7: This bill will go into effect one year after passage.