

SENATE BILL 971

E2
SB 621/19 – JPR

0lr2505

By: **Senator Carter**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Correctional Services – Diminution Credits – Education Milestones**

3 FOR the purpose of awarding a one-time diminution credit to reduce the term of
4 confinement of an inmate if the inmate successfully obtains a certain educational
5 certificate, diploma, or degree; establishing the diminution credit that may be
6 awarded to certain inmates; requiring the Commissioner of Correction to establish a
7 uniform system of deductions and participation criteria for awarding a certain
8 diminution credit; establishing a certain exception to a certain maximum deduction
9 that may be earned by an inmate; providing for the application of this Act; and
10 generally relating to diminution credits.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Correctional Services
13 Section 3–706.1
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Correctional Services
18 Section 3–708
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Correctional Services**

24 **3–706.1.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER DEDUCTIONS ALLOWED UNDER THIS**
2 **SUBTITLE, AS AN INCENTIVE TO REDUCE A TERM OF INCARCERATION, AN INMATE**
3 **MAY BE ALLOWED A ONE-TIME DEDUCTION IN ADVANCE FROM THE INMATE’S TERM**
4 **OF CONFINEMENT IF THE INMATE SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINS:**

5 **(1) AN INTERMEDIATE HIGH ACADEMIC CERTIFICATE;**

6 **(2) NOT MORE THAN ONE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION OF A**
7 **TECHNICAL OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM THAT REQUIRED AT LEAST 600**
8 **HOURS OF COURSEWORK AND IS APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND THE**
9 **COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTION;**

10 **(3) A STATE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BY EXAMINATION UNDER §**
11 **11-808 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE;**

12 **(4) A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA;**

13 **(5) AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE; OR**

14 **(6) A BACHELOR’S DEGREE.**

15 **(B) (1) THE DEDUCTION ALLOWED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS**
16 **SECTION SHALL BE:**

17 **(I) FOR AN INMATE DESCRIBED IN § 3-707(A)(2) OF THIS**
18 **SUBTITLE, 60 DAYS PER PROGRAM COMPLETED; AND**

19 **(II) FOR ALL OTHER INMATES, 90 DAYS PER PROGRAM**
20 **COMPLETED.**

21 **(2) THE DEDUCTION ALLOWED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE IN**
22 **ADDITION TO ANY OTHER DEDUCTION AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

23 **(C) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF**
24 **DEDUCTIONS AND PARTICIPATION CRITERIA ALLOWED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF**
25 **THIS SECTION.**

26 3-708.

27 **[Notwithstanding] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 3-706.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND**
28 **NOTWITHSTANDING** any other provision of this subtitle, an inmate may not be allowed a
29 deduction under this subtitle of more than:

30 **(1) 20 days for a calendar month for an inmate described in § 3-707(a)(2)**
31 **of this subtitle; and**

1 (2) 30 days for a calendar month for all other inmates.

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to
3 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or
4 application to any award of diminution credit before the effective date of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2020.