

Chapter 677

(Senate Bill 800)

AN ACT concerning

Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021

FOR the purpose of establishing the Inmate Training and Job Pilot Program at certain institutions of postsecondary education; providing for the purpose of the Pilot Program; providing for the administration of the Pilot Program; requiring the Commissioner of Correction to adopt certain regulations to implement the Pilot Program; requiring the Pilot Program to have certain individualized plans that specify a certain staff member to serve as a primary contact; requiring the primary contact to select at least a certain number of students who meet certain qualifications to serve as Pilot Program mentors; requiring certain student mentors to receive course credit and a stipend; requiring the primary contact to meet with an inmate regularly to ensure that the inmate receives certain support; requiring the primary contact to work with the Division of Correction for a certain purpose; requiring certain governing entities to ensure that Pilot Program courses meet certain standards; requiring Pilot Program courses to be provided through a ~~virtual~~ certain format and subject to certain regulations; requiring the Division to ensure that each inmate enrolled in the Pilot Program has access to the Internet and to certain online materials ~~courses and instruction are provided in a certain manner; requiring the Division to create a certain process by which to confer a degree to an inmate enrolled in the Pilot Program under certain circumstances; requiring the Division to create a certain process and system for a certain purpose on or before a certain date; requiring each inmate who participates in the Pilot Program to provide the Maryland Higher Education Commission a certain institution and nonprofit organization with certain updates for a certain period of time; requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to establish a certain hotline; requiring the Commission to connect a Pilot Program participant with certain nonprofit organizations under certain circumstances in a certain manner; requiring the Commission to encourage former Pilot Program participants to serve as contacts for future participants; requiring the Governor, in certain fiscal years, to include in the annual budget bill certain appropriations for the Pilot Program and specifying the uses of the appropriated funds; requiring certain governing entities to report on or before a certain date in certain years to the Commission on the number of inmates enrolled in the Pilot Program; requiring that, subject to a certain minimum participant limit, funds be allocated to certain institutions of postsecondary education on a pro rata basis; requiring the Commission on or before certain dates to submit certain reports to the Governor and General Assembly; defining certain terms; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Inmate Training and Job Pilot Program.~~

BY adding to
Article – Correctional Services

Section 3–611
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 24–1301 through 24–1306 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 13. Inmate
Training and Job Pilot Program”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – Correctional Services

3–611.

(A) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE INMATE TRAINING AND JOB PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 13 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

(B) THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE TERMS OF DEDUCTION FOR PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND, IF APPROPRIATE, PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE WORK RELEASE OF PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

Article – Education

SUBTITLE 13. INMATE TRAINING AND JOB PILOT PROGRAM.

24–1301.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION.

(C) “DIVISION” MEANS THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES.

(D) “GOVERNING ENTITY” MEANS:

(1) THE PRESIDENT OF BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY;

(2) THE PRESIDENT OF COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY;

(3) THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY;

(4) THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE; AND

(5) THE PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, BOARD OF REGENTS, OR ANY OTHER HEAD OF AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AT WHICH THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHES A PILOT PROGRAM UNDER § 24-1302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(E) "INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-101 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(F) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE INMATE TRAINING AND JOB PILOT PROGRAM.

24-1302.

(A) (1) THERE IS AN INMATE TRAINING AND JOB PILOT PROGRAM AT:

(I) BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY;

(II) COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY;

(III) MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY; AND

(IV) THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE.

(2) THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM AT AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION NOT LISTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION THROUGH A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF EACH PILOT PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AN INMATE IN THE ~~9~~ 12 MONTHS PRECEDING THE INMATE'S DATE OF RELEASE.

(C) THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED JOINTLY BY THE COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNING ENTITY OF EACH INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE DIVISION.

24-1303.

(A) (1) EACH PILOT PROGRAM SHALL HAVE AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN DESIGNED TO PREPARE THE INMATE FOR SUCCESS ON RELEASE.

(2) THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN SHALL SPECIFY A PROFESSOR OR OTHER STAFF MEMBER AT THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WHO SHALL SERVE AS THE PRIMARY CONTACT RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH INMATE'S PARTICIPATION AND EDUCATION IN THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(3) (I) THE PRIMARY CONTACT SHALL SELECT AT LEAST THREE STUDENTS TO SERVE AS PILOT PROGRAM MENTORS WHO ARE:

1. AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD;

2. ENROLLED IN THE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION; AND

3. IF A PILOT PROGRAM IS LOCATED AT A 4-YEAR INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, ENROLLED IN THEIR JUNIOR OR SENIOR YEAR.

(II) A STUDENT WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL RECEIVE COURSE CREDIT AND A SMALL STIPEND FROM THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(4) TO ENSURE THAT THE INMATE RECEIVES THE SUPPORT NECESSARY TO SUCCEED, THE PRIMARY CONTACT SHALL MEET WITH THE INMATE REGULARLY DURING THE INMATE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(5) THE PRIMARY CONTACT SHALL WORK WITH THE DIVISION TO ENSURE THAT THE TIMING OF COURSE PARTICIPATION AND PILOT PROGRAM MEETINGS WORKS WITH AN INMATE'S SCHEDULE.

(B) EACH GOVERNING ENTITY SHALL ENSURE THAT AN INMATE PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROGRAM IS ENROLLED IN A COURSE OR COURSES THAT:

(1) ARE CREDIT BEARING AND MAY CONTRIBUTE TO COURSE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION; OR

(2) EITHER IN ISOLATION OR AS PART OF A SERIES OF COURSES, LEAD TO AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATE OR LICENSE.

(C) COURSES PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE:

(1) PROVIDED THROUGH A ~~VIRTUAL~~ SUITABLE FORMAT AS INDICATED BY THE PILOT PROGRAM IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION, THE DIVISION, AND THE APPLICABLE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, WHETHER VIRTUAL OR NONVIRTUAL; AND

(2) SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTION UNDER § 3-611 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.

(D) THE DIVISION SHALL:

(1) ~~ENSURE THAT EACH INMATE ENROLLED IN THE PILOT PROGRAM HAS ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AND TO PLATFORMS REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSION AND PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, INCLUDING:~~

~~(I) WEBSITES AND DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE INMATE TO COMPLETE THE FEDERAL FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA);~~

~~(II) VIRTUAL LEARNING APPLICATIONS; AND~~

~~(III) THE WEBSITES FOR THE COMMISSION AND PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COURSES AND INSTRUCTION ARE PROVIDED IN A SUITABLE MANNER AS INDICATED BY THE PILOT PROGRAM IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION, THE DIVISION, AND THE APPLICABLE INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, WHETHER VIRTUAL OR NONVIRTUAL; AND~~

(2) CREATE A SAFE AND REASONABLE PROCESS, WHETHER VIRTUALLY OR IN PERSON, BY WHICH TO CONFER A DEGREE TO AN INMATE WHO IS STILL INCARCERATED AND WHO COMPLETES THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A DEGREE AS PART OF THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND

(3) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2022, CREATE A PROCESS AND SYSTEM IN COORDINATION WITH THE COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A HYBRID VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN THE DIVISION’S STATEWIDE SYSTEM.

24-1304.

(A) (1) EACH INMATE WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL AGREE TO PROVIDE THE ~~COMMISSION~~ ASSIGNED INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH REGULAR

UPDATES FOR 2 YEARS FOLLOWING THE INMATE'S RELEASE.

(2) UPDATES PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S EMPLOYMENT, ENROLLMENT IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COURSES, AND LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION.

(B) THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH A HOTLINE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE PILOT PROGRAM THROUGH WHICH A FORMER INMATE MAY BE CONNECTED TO COUNSELING AND JOB SERVICES.

(C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, BEFORE A PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S RELEASE, THE COMMISSION SHALL CONNECT A PARTICIPANT WITH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT SERVES INDIVIDUALS IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE THE PARTICIPANT PLANS TO RESIDE.

(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONNECT A PARTICIPANT WITH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION ONLY IF THE PARTICIPANT DESIRES THE AID OF A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION INCLUDES AID WITH:

- (I) JOB PLACEMENT;**
- (II) HOUSING SERVICES; OR**
- (III) COUNSELING SERVICES.**

(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL FACILITATE PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT CONTACT WITH THE APPROPRIATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

(D) THE COMMISSION SHALL ENCOURAGE FORMER PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO SERVE AS CONTACTS FOR FUTURE PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

24-1305.

(A) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF:

- (1) ~~\$125,000~~ \$300,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2023;**
- (2) ~~\$137,500~~ \$330,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2024;**
- (3) ~~\$151,250~~ \$363,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2025; AND**

(4) ~~\$151,250~~ \$363,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2026.

(B) FUNDING APPROPRIATED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE PROVIDED TO:

(1) THE COMMISSION FOR:

(I) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM, INCLUDING A DESIGNATED EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM;

(II) GRANTS MADE TO INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND

(III) STIPENDS PROVIDED TO STUDENT MENTORS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND

(2) THE DIVISION FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM WITHIN THE DIVISION, INCLUDING A DESIGNATED EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(C) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15, 2022, AND EACH DECEMBER 15 THROUGH 2026, A GOVERNING ENTITY SHALL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON THE NUMBER OF INMATES ENROLLED IN THE PILOT PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTION IN THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR.

(D) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH YEAR THE COMMISSION SHALL ALLOCATE FUNDS TO INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM ON A PRO RATA BASIS, ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT ENROLLMENT DATA REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) ~~AN INSTITUTION~~ INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MUST COLLECTIVELY AIM TO ENROLL AT LEAST 10 40 INMATES, TO BE DIVIDED AMONG THE INSTITUTIONS, TO QUALIFY FOR AN ALLOCATION OF FUNDS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

24-1306.

(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIVISION, SHALL SUBMIT AN INTERIM REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(2) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2028, THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIVISION, SHALL SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(B) THE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:

- (1) THE COURSES IN WHICH A PARTICIPANT ENROLLED;**
- (2) POST-CONFINEMENT EMPLOYMENT OF A PARTICIPANT;**
- (3) POST-CONFINEMENT CONTINUING EDUCATION OF A PARTICIPANT; AND**
- (4) POST-CONFINEMENT CERTIFICATION OR LICENSURE OF A PARTICIPANT.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 years and, at the end of June 30, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021.