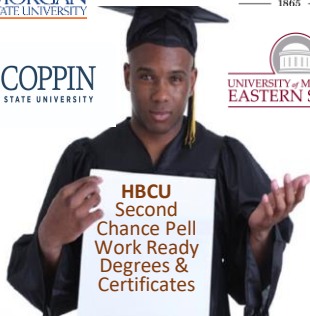


Maryland 2020 Returning Citizens Job Opportunity Bill HB -1524/SB-858



The Problem

Formerly incarcerated are unemployed at a rate of over 37% — higher than the total U.S. unemployment rate.

The Solution

The 2020 Maryland Returning Citizen Job Opportunity Bill SB-858\HB-1524 sponsored by Del. Davis, Del. Grammar & Senator Sydnor requires all businesses who contract with any state or local correctional facility to:

- post all jobs in the Maryland Workforce Exchange job board & within 45 days of posting - review the applications of formerly incarcerated with the goal to hire, unless an exemption applies.
- contractor receives preference points when they re-apply to renew their contract. Goal is to match employers financially benefiting from the prison system with returned citizen candidates in order to reduce unemployment & recidivism.
- provide annual reports on the number of formerly incarcerated applications received, by age, gender, ethnicity, zip code and the number hired with hire date, title and salary.



First Step to Second Chances

Bill Supporters



NAACP



ACLU
Maryland



APAC
Adventist Prison & Health Reform
Advocates Coalition

Life After Release

Bill Benefits

Below are benefits state contractors can receive for hiring a returned citizen. There are over **500 Business Contractors** with state and local correctional facilities that have contracts worth collectively almost \$2 billion.

- **Hire Prince George's County** Reimbursement of up to **90%** of returning citizen trainee wages during training up to 90 days.
- **The Maryland Apprenticeship Tax Credit** provides a State income tax credit to Registered Apprenticeship Sponsors or participating employers (Employer) which hire an eligible Registered Apprentice(s). The Employer may qualify for a **\$1,000** tax credit for each eligible returning citizen.
- **The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)** is a Federal tax credit available to employers for hiring individuals from certain target groups who have consistently faced significant barriers to employment. The maximum tax credit ranges from **\$1,200 to \$9,600**, depending on the employee hired
- **Disabled Access Tax Incentives** - The maximum amount of the credit is **\$5,000**. The credit can be used to cover a variety of expenditures related to hiring a disabled returning citizen.

Maryland Workforce Exchange



Federal Bonding Program - sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, serves as a tool to secure the job placement of ex-offenders and other high-risk applicants by issuing Fidelity bonds to businesses who offer jobs to workers in "at risk" groups. The initial total of \$5,000 bond coverage is usually issued, with no deductible amount of liability for the employer.