

## Testimony Against HB0092

Please vote against HB0092.

Although helping incarcerated individuals seek Federal grants is a noble sentiment, I believe our limited taxpayer funds could be better spent, if spent at all, on other endeavors such as helping our students seek these grants rather than establishing an elaborate system to:

- (1) SET GOALS FOR THE NUMBER OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS;
- (2) ESTABLISH A TRACKING SYSTEM FOR THE NUMBER OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS;
- (3) ESTABLISH A TRACKING SYSTEM FOR THE PROGRESS OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE CREDITS THAT EACH INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL EARNS IN AN APPROVED COLLEGE PROGRAM; AND
- (4) FORWARD, AT AN AGREED-ON INTERVAL, THE TRACKING DATA FOR THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE CREDITS THAT EACH INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL EARNS IN AN APPROVED COLLEGE PROGRAM TO THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION. (Per Page 3, lines 1-12)

In addition to the expense of creating, maintaining, and staffing the new system, this bill would then commit to spending money annually to advertise available education programs to prisoners.

(E) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO USE FOR MARKETING FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS AND FOR THE TRACKING SYSTEMS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS. (Per Page 3, lines 16-20)

I would think it would be far less expensive to adopt a low tech approach to help prisoners get an education. An existing employee in each prison could take on the role of guidance counselor who could help interested prisoners seek these grants and who could market the available educational programs by placing flyers in the prison libraries.

Please defeat this bill and save the taxpayers' money, or at the very least, least spend it on the non-criminals in our society.

Alan Lang  
242 Armstrong Lane  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
410-336-9745  
[Alanlang1@verizon.net](mailto:Alanlang1@verizon.net)