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**TO:** The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee

**FROM:** Tiffany Clark  
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** Senate Bill 181 – Qualifying Nonprofit Organizations – Training and Reentry Services - Funding - **Favorable**

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The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to favorably report Senate Bill 181. This bill requires the Governor to include a certain appropriation in the annual budget bill to provide grants to certain nonprofit organizations to provide training in automotive repair to incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals.

The United States incarcerates more people per capita than any other nation in the world. Often, when an individual is released from jail or prison, the individual lacks the appropriate support to reintegrate successfully into their communities. Studies have continuously cited barriers to education and employment opportunities as the biggest hurdles an individual must overcome after a term of imprisonment to be a successful member of their communities. Successful reentry and the reduction of recidivism depends on both the individual and the opportunities available to them upon release.

The U.S. Department of Justice has emphasized the importance of creating real, useful employment opportunities and getting buy-in from the intended participants of those opportunities, so they are invested in and enthusiastic about the possible outcomes for their life outside of jail or prison. Nonprofit organizations establish reentry programs designed to create opportunities for successful rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals released from jails and prisons into their communities by providing individuals with workforce training, access to healthcare, housing assistance and a host of other key supports.

One of the keys to a successful reentry program is proper funding. Providing grants to nonprofit organizations in the State that provide training to incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals, as Senate Bill 181 proposes, would push the needle forward on this issue.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report of Senate Bill 181.

cc: Senator Cory McCray  
Committee Members