

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 187

(Senator Sydnor)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Correctional Services - Inmate Employment - Agricultural Work

This bill repeals the authority of the Division of Correction (DOC) to arrange for the employment of inmates in agricultural work at specified camps. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to have a material impact on State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to have a material impact on local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Current Law: Except for inmates needed or being utilized by the State Highway Administration for emergency road maintenance, DOC is required to arrange for inmates to be employed in agricultural work during any part of the year. A person that employs inmates in agricultural work must (1) pay the reasonable value for the work at the estimated prevailing wage in the community where the inmates are employed and (2) give any security for the payments that DOC requires.

A person that employs inmates may sell the produce harvested by the inmates. Inmates employed in agricultural work must be under the control and supervision of DOC to the same extent as when employed in the construction and maintenance of public roads.

These provisions apply to inmates of any camp in Queen Anne’s County or in any other county in which similar camps are established and inmates in a county within a reasonable distance, to be determined by DOC, of any such camp.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 747 of 2023.

Designated Cross File: HB 94 (Delegate Pasteur) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Carroll, Harford, Queen Anne’s, and St. Mary’s counties; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 17, 2024
js/lgc Third Reader - February 23, 2024

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