
By: **Prince George's County Delegation**
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 1998
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County - Employment of Prisoners**
3 **PG 301-98**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing an exemption so as to make applicable to Prince
5 George's County certain provisions of law that authorize a judge to allow under
6 certain circumstances a person convicted of a crime and sentenced to
7 imprisonment to continue regular employment or obtain new employment.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
10 Section 645K through 645R
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
15 Section 645S
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

20 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

21 645K.

22 Whenever a person shall be convicted of a crime and sentenced to imprisonment
23 in any county, town or city jail by any court in the counties to which this subtitle
24 applies, the judge imposing sentence may prescribe that insofar as possible the person
25 may continue his regular employment or obtain new employment while serving the
26 term of his sentence, and the judge shall designate either the sheriff or the Division of
27 Parole and Probation to supervise, arrange for or obtain such employment.

1 If a convicted person has been regularly employed, the sheriff or the Division of
2 Parole and Probation shall arrange for a continuation of said work insofar as possible
3 without interruption. The sheriff or the Division of Parole and Probation shall make
4 every effort to secure some suitable employment for the prisoner if he is not employed
5 in any job. The sheriff or the Division of Parole and Probation shall try to obtain
6 employment for the prisoner paying a fair and reasonable wage, and the prisoner
7 shall work at fair and reasonable employment and fair and reasonable hours per day
8 and per week.

9 645L.

10 Whenever the prisoner is not employed, and between the hours or periods of
11 employment, he shall be confined in jail unless the court shall direct otherwise.

12 645M.

13 (a) The earnings of prisoners shall be collected by the Department of Public
14 Safety and Correctional Services. From these earnings the Department shall pay the
15 following:

16 (1) The cost of providing food, lodging and clothing by the place of
17 incarceration to the State or the county;

18 (2) Court ordered payments for support of dependents; and

19 (3) Court ordered payments for restitution.

20 (b) Any balance remaining after the payments as set out in subsection (a)
21 shall be credited to the prisoner's account and paid to him within 15 days of his
22 release.

23 645N.

24 If approved by the committing court, the prisoner obtains a diminution of one
25 fourth of his term if his conduct, diligence and general attitude merit such
26 diminution.

27 645-O.

28 In case of the violation of the conditions laid down for his conduct, custody and
29 employment, he shall be returned to the court; and it may then require that the
30 balance of his sentence be spent in actual confinement and may cancel any earned
31 diminution of his term.

32 645P.

33 The sheriff shall receive such extra expense allowance and mileage as the board
34 of county commissioners determines for his additional service under the terms of this
35 subtitle.

1 645Q.

2 The provisions of this subtitle shall extend to a person committed to jail by a
3 court of record upon an adjudication of contempt of court.

4 645R.

5 In this subtitle "jail" includes county or municipal lockups, prison farms and
6 other similar places used for the detention of offenders against the laws of the State of
7 Maryland, and "sheriff" includes the jailer or superintendent thereof.

8 645S.

9 The provisions of §§ 645K through 645R of this subtitle do not apply in
10 Montgomery [and Prince George's Counties] COUNTY.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
12 effect October 1, 1998.