

BY: Budget and Taxation Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 809

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “Income Tax - Credit for Employment of Ex-Felons” and substitute “Pilot Program for Long-Term Employment of Qualified Ex-Felons”; in line 3, after “of” insert “creating a Pilot Program for Long-Term Employment of Qualified Ex-Felons within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; requiring the Department to establish the pilot program in consultation with the Governor’s Workforce Investment Board; requiring the Department to purchase certain bonds for a certain number of qualified ex-felons each year and to provide certain bonds to certain one stop career centers; requiring that the pilot program be implemented by certain one stop career centers in a certain number of Workforce Investment Areas; requiring a one stop center that participates in the pilot program to work with certain entities to encourage referral and participation of qualified ex-felons, to provide certain outreach and education, and to develop a certain evaluation process; requiring a one stop center to apply to the Department for designation as a pilot program location; requiring the Department in consultation with the Governor’s Workforce Investment Board to designate certain one stop centers as pilot program locations and to consider certain information;”; in line 11, strike “requiring that a certain study be conducted;”; strike beginning with “tax” in line 13 down through “ex-felons” in line 14 and substitute “the Pilot Program for Long-Term Employment of Qualified Ex-Felons”; in line 17, after “2-301” insert “through 2-305”; and in the same line, strike “Miscellaneous” and substitute “Pilot Program for Long-Term Employment of Qualified Ex-Felons”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 4, strike “MISCELLANEOUS” and substitute “PILOT PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELONS”; in line 6, strike “(1)”; in the same line, strike “SECTION” and substitute “SUBTITLE”; after line 7, insert:

“(B) “BOARD” MEANS THE GOVERNOR’S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND

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EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.”;

in lines 8, 9, and 11, strike “(2)”, “(I)”, and “(II)”, respectively, and substitute “(C)”, “(1)”, and “(2)”, respectively; after line 12, insert:

“(D) “FIDELITY BOND” MEANS A BOND PROVIDED TO AN EMPLOYER FOR THE BONDING OF EX-OFFENDERS PROVIDED THROUGH THE FEDERAL BONDING PROGRAM OR OTHER SIMILAR PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

“(E) “ONE STOP CENTER” MEANS AN ENTITY DESIGNATED WITHIN A WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA THAT PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND SERVICES UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.

“(F) “PILOT PROGRAM” MEANS THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.”;

in line 14, after “CODE” insert “WHO IS EMPLOYED BY A BUSINESS ENTITY THROUGH THE PILOT PROGRAM UNDER THIS SUBTITLE”; in lines 13, 15, and 20, strike “(3) (I)”, “(II)”, and “(4)”, respectively, and substitute “(G) (1)”, “(2)”, and “(H)”, respectively; after line 23, insert:

“(I) “WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA” MEANS A GEOGRAPHIC AREA DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR AS A SERVICE DELIVERY AREA UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.

2-302.

(A) THERE IS A PILOT PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OF EX-FELONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO BUSINESS ENTITIES TO ENCOURAGE THE LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEES.

(B) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2002, THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD, SHALL ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF EX-FELONS PROVIDED IN § 2-303 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(2) THE PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL REMAIN IN PLACE FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS AND SHALL TERMINATE AT THE

END OF DECEMBER 31, 2003.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM IN AT LEAST TWO AREAS OF THE STATE TO PROVIDE FIDELITY BONDS AND TO QUALIFY BUSINESS ENTITIES FOR TAX CREDITS TO ENCOURAGE THE LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEES UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) PURCHASE THE NECESSARY AMOUNT OF FIDELITY BONDS TO PROVIDE BONDS TO BUSINESS ENTITIES FOR A FULL YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT FOR UP TO 200 QUALIFIED EX-FELONS EACH YEAR; AND

(2) PROVIDE THE FIDELITY BONDS PURCHASED EACH YEAR TO THE ONE STOP CENTERS IN THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS DESIGNATED UNDER § 2-303 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(E) THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL:

(1) BE IMPLEMENTED IN ONE STOP CENTERS IN AT LEAST TWO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS OF THE STATE AS DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD UNDER § 2-303 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(2) PROVIDE FIDELITY BONDS TO BUSINESS ENTITIES THROUGH THE ONE STOP CENTERS IN TWO OR MORE AREAS OF THE STATE AS DESIGNATED UNDER § 2-303 FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF UP TO 200 QUALIFIED EX-FELONS EACH YEAR.

(F) THE PILOT PROGRAM SHALL REQUIRE A ONE STOP CENTER THAT IS DESIGNATED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PILOT PROGRAM TO:

(1) WORK WITH APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND

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STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES THAT PROVIDE SERVICES TO QUALIFIED EX-FELONS TO ENCOURAGE THE REFERRAL AND PARTICIPATION OF QUALIFIED EX-FELONS IN THE PROGRAM;

(2) PROVIDE OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE BUSINESS ENTITIES TO HIRE QUALIFIED EX-FELONS FOR LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM;

(3) PROVIDE A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT HIRES A QUALIFIED EX-FELON UNDER THE PROGRAM WITH:

(I) A FIDELITY BOND FOR THE QUALIFIED EX-FELON THAT COVERS AT LEAST 12 MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT; AND

(II) INFORMATION ON THE TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE TO A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT HIRES A QUALIFIED EX-FELON THROUGH THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND

(4) DEVELOP AN EVALUATION PROCESS FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES A MECHANISM TO EVALUATE WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM HAS OPERATED TO SECURE STABLE EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED EX-FELONS THAT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM.

2-303.

(A) A ONE STOP CENTER SHALL APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR DESIGNATION AS A LOCATION FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(B) THE APPLICATION SHALL DESCRIBE THE PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE ONE STOP CENTER TO ADMINISTER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN § 2-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD, SHALL EVALUATE THE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY ONE STOP CENTERS AND SHALL

DESIGNATE ONE STOP CENTERS IN AT LEAST TWO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREAS AS PILOT PROGRAM LOCATIONS.

(2) THE DESIGNATION OF ONE STOP CENTERS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE A CONSIDERATION OF THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED EX-FELONS RESIDING IN THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA IN WHICH THE ONE STOP CENTER IS LOCATED.

2-304.”;

in lines 24, 28, and 34, strike “(B)”, “(C)”, and “(D)”, respectively, and substitute “(A)”, “(B)”, and “(C)”, respectively; in line 24, strike “(D)” and substitute “(C)”; in line 25, after “ENTITY” insert “THAT HIRES A QUALIFIED EX-FELON EMPLOYEE THROUGH THE PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE”; and in line 26, strike “(C)” and substitute “(B)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, in line 32, strike “(E)” and substitute “(D)”.

On page 4, in line 1, strike “(F)” and substitute “(E)”; after line 3, insert “2-305.”; in lines 4 and 7, strike “(G) (1)” and “(2)”, respectively, and substitute “(A)” and “(B)”, respectively; in line 5, after “SERVICES” insert “, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD,”; in line 6, strike “SECTION” and substitute “SUBTITLE”; and after line 9, insert:

“Article - Tax - General”.

On page 5, strike line 1 in its entirety; in lines 5 and 25, in each instance, strike “§ 2-301” and substitute “§ 2-304”; and strike in their entirety lines 29 through 40, inclusive.

On page 6, in line 1, strike “3.” and substitute “2.”; in line 3, strike “2000” and substitute “2001”; in lines 4, 6, and 7, in each instance, strike “2-301” and substitute “2-304”; in line 5, strike “June 1, 2001” and substitute “January 1, 2002”; in the same line, strike “July 1, 2003” and substitute “December 31, 2003”; in line 9, after “years” insert “and 6 months”; and in the same line, strike “June 30”, and substitute “December 31”.

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