

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1354

(Delegate Cadden)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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**Correctional Services - Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services -  
Advisory Council on Offender Employment Coordination Membership**

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This bill adds the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to the Advisory Council on Offender Employment Coordination and extends the termination date of the council and the ending date for the terms of council members from August 31, 2004 to August 31, 2007. The bill also eliminates the executive director of the council.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2004.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Any expense reimbursements for the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation could be handled with existing budgeted resources. Extending the termination date of the council would not significantly affect the operations or finances of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS).

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Advisory Council on Offender Employment Coordination was created by Chapter 687 of 2001 within DPSCS. The council consists of 13 members, including the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the State Superintendent of Education. It is charged with gathering information, soliciting ideas, and advising and providing guidance on ways to: (1) develop transitional supports and

expand employment opportunities for offenders both in institutional and community settings; (2) provide more extensive employment counseling for offenders under correctional control; (3) transfer successful institutional programs and services that prepare offenders for employment and provide employment opportunities to community settings; (4) increase job placement and job retention rates for all offenders under correctional control; (5) improve the overall coordination of employment services for offenders; (6) develop and implement a business mentoring program; and (7) conduct mock job fairs in institutions and in the community. The council also assists the executive director in the development of a plan for transitional employment that incorporates these objectives. Programs that successfully prepare offenders for employment are transferred from institutional to community settings.

The council is due to sunset August 31, 2004, which is not extended by this bill.

**Background:** The position of executive director to the council has been vacant for the past six months. The position was contractual and DPSCS had not planned to refill the position. With or without the enactment of this bill, all the executive director's responsibilities have been, and will continue to be, handled with other existing budgeted staffing resources of the agency.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 19, 2004  
mh/jr Revised - House Third Reader - April 1, 2004

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