

CHAPTER 626

(House Bill 637)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force on Prisoner Reentry

FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Prisoner Reentry; providing for the membership of the Task Force; providing for the designation of a chair of the Task Force; providing for staff for the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study certain issues; requiring the Task Force to report its interim findings to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Task Force to report its final findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; making this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force on Prisoner Reentry.

BY adding to

Article – Correctional Services

Section 2–501

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, There is a growing population of criminal offenders who return to their communities and commit new crimes; and

WHEREAS, An important component of breaking the cycle of criminal recidivism is a successful prisoner reentry program; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States passed with bipartisan support and the President of the United States signed on April 9, 2008, the Second Chance Act of 2007, an Act that provides grants to government agencies to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victim support, and other services that can help reduce recidivism; and

WHEREAS, One of the conditions of receiving financial assistance under the federal Second Chance Act of 2007 is the establishment of a Task Force on Prisoner Reentry; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly that the appropriate State agencies should apply for federal financial assistance provided under the federal Second Chance Act of 2007; now, therefore,

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

Article – Correctional Services

2-501.

(A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE ON PRISONER REENTRY.

(B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING ~~17~~ MEMBERS:

(1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

(2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

(3) TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH RELEVANT EXPERTISE IN THE PROVISION OF REENTRY SERVICES TO ADULT OFFENDERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

(4) TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH RELEVANT EXPERTISE IN THE PROVISION OF REENTRY SERVICES TO JUVENILE OFFENDERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

(5) TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE FORMERLY COMMITTED TO A STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; ~~AND~~

(6) TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO REPRESENT EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

(7) TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO REPRESENT ORGANIZED LABOR, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

(8) UP TO FOUR MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, WHO REPRESENT LOCAL REENTRY TASK FORCES THAT HAVE REVIEWED OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING LOCAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF EX-OFFENDERS, INCLUDING ONE FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AND ONE FROM BALTIMORE CITY; AND

~~(6)~~ (9) THE FOLLOWING ~~SEVEN~~ MEMBERS, WHO SHALL SERVE EX OFFICIO:

(I) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(II) THE SECRETARY OF JUVENILE SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(III) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, OR THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

(IV) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(V) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(VI) THE SECRETARY OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND REGULATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE; ~~AND~~

(VII) THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTION, OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE; AND

(VIII) THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION, OR THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESIGNEE; AND

(IX) ONE MEMBER FROM THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

(C) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE SHALL:

(1) CHAIR THE TASK FORCE; AND

(2) PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE TASK FORCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

(D) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(E) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

(1) EXAMINE WAYS TO POOL RESOURCES AND FUNDING STREAMS TO PROMOTE LOWER RECIDIVISM RATES FOR RETURNING OFFENDERS AND MINIMIZE THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF OFFENDERS' TIME IN PRISON, JAIL, OR A JUVENILE FACILITY ON FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES OF OFFENDERS BY COLLECTING DATA AND BEST PRACTICES IN OFFENDER REENTRY FROM DEMONSTRATION GRANTEES AND OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS;

(2) ANALYZE THE STATUTORY, REGULATORY, RULES-BASED, AND PRACTICE-BASED HURDLES TO REINTEGRATION OF ADULT AND JUVENILE OFFENDERS INTO THE COMMUNITY;

(3) INVESTIGATE GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA TO TRACK OUTCOMES OF INMATE REENTRY PROGRAM PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING PROGRAM APPROVALS, DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAM PARTICIPATION, AND PROGRAM GRADUATION AND OTHER TYPES OF PROGRAM COMPLETION AND NONCOMPLETION;

(4) RESEARCH LONGITUDINAL DATA TRACKING OF THE PRE- AND POST-RELEASE IMPACT OF REENTRY PROGRAMS;

(5) INVESTIGATE THE NUMBER OF IDLE INMATES IN EACH STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; AND

(6) DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC REENTRY PLAN AS SPECIFIED UNDER THE FEDERAL SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007.

(F) (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT AN INTERIM REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2010.

(2) THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2011.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,

has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through June 30, 2012, and, at the end of June 30, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2009.