By: Senator Benson  
Requested: October 27, 2020  
Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021  
Assigned to: Finance and Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Correctional Services – Inmates – Labor, Job Training, and Educational Courses

For the purpose of requiring the compensation rate for inmate labor in Maryland Correctional Enterprises to be not less than the State minimum wage; repealing a requirement that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services reimburse a certain county or the State for certain costs from an inmate's earnings under certain circumstances; prohibiting the Department from deducting certain costs from an inmate's earnings; requiring the Division of Correction to offer job training to certain inmates; requiring the Division to partner with labor unions and trade associations to develop certain training programs; requiring certain training to focus on certain skills; requiring the Division to offer educational courses to certain inmates; requiring certain educational courses to include certain types of courses and subjects; requiring the Department to report to the Governor and General Assembly on certain matters on or before a certain date annually; making a conforming change; and generally relating to inmates.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Correctional Services  
Section 3–514 and 9–615  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Correctional Services  
Section 9–617  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Article – Correctional Services

3–514.

(a) (1) [The] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer shall establish the compensation rate for inmate labor in Maryland Correctional Enterprises, taking into consideration other wage payments and incentives in other programs.

(2) THE COMPENSATION RATE FOR INMATE LABOR IN MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES MAY NOT BE LESS THAN THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE UNDER § 3–413(C) OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.

(b) After review by the Management Council, and after consideration of any recommendation by the Chief Executive Officer, the Commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article that govern the method and time of compensation payments.

9–615.

(a) This section applies to an inmate in a State or local correctional facility.

(b) The Department shall collect an inmate’s earnings.

(c) (1) From an inmate’s earnings, the Department shall:

[(1) if required by law, reimburse the county or State for the cost of providing food, lodging, and clothing to the inmate;

(2)] (I) pay court ordered payments for support of dependents;

[(3)] (II) pay court ordered payments for restitution; and

[(4)] (III) pay compensation for victims of crime in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT DEDUCT THE COST OF FOOD, LODGING, OR CLOTHING FROM AN INMATE’S EARNINGS.

(d) (1) Of the earnings of an inmate in the Private Sector/Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program of the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Department shall withhold 20% for compensation for victims of crime, in accordance with the requirements of the Program.
(2) (i) This paragraph applies to an inmate who is subject to an
unsatisfied judgment of restitution.

(ii) If an inmate has earnings that are not covered under the
provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Department shall withhold 25% for
compensation for victims of crime until the judgment is satisfied.

(3) (i) If a court in a criminal or juvenile delinquency proceeding has
ordered the inmate to pay restitution, the Department shall forward the money withheld
under paragraph (1) of this subsection to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund
established under § 11–819 of the Criminal Procedure Article.

(ii) The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board shall distribute from
the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund any amount received under this paragraph to
the person or governmental unit specified in the judgment of restitution to pay the
restitution as required under § 11–607(b)(2) of the Criminal Procedure Article.

(4) If the inmate is not subject to a judgment of restitution or the judgment
of restitution is satisfied, of the money withheld under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the
Department shall pay:

(i) 50% into the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund established
under § 11–819 of the Criminal Procedure Article; and

(ii) 50% into the State Victims of Crime Fund established under §
11–916 of the Criminal Procedure Article.

(e) The Department shall:

(1) credit to the inmate’s account any balance that remains after paying
the items in subsection (c)(1) [through (4)] of this section; and

(2) pay the balance in the inmate’s account to the inmate within 15 days
after the inmate is released.

9–617.

(A) (1) The Division of Correction shall offer job training to
all inmates who wish to participate.

(2) The Division of Correction shall partner with labor
unions and trade associations to develop the job training programs to
be offered.

(3) The job training offered shall focus on marketable
skills.
(B) (1) The Division of Correction shall offer educational courses to all inmates who wish to participate.

(2) Educational offerings shall include:

(I) Courses above GED level;

(II) Financial literacy;

(III) Investing; and

(IV) Civics.

(C) On or before March 1 annually, the Department shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the job training and educational courses offered by the Division during the preceding calendar year, including:

(1) A listing and description of each training module and educational course offered along with the number of students participating in each; and

(2) The number of inmates who received diplomas, certificates, or other program completions, by category.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.