SENATE BILL 765

By: Senator Sydnor
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Probation – Probation Work Readiness Pilot Program

FOR the purpose of establishing the Probation Work Readiness Pilot Program to provide dedicated services for individuals placed on probation to obtain and retain employment; and generally relating to the Probation Work Readiness Pilot Program.

BY adding to
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 3–2301 and 3–2302 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 23. Probation Work Readiness Pilot Program”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

SUBTITLE 23. PROBATION WORK READINESS PILOT PROGRAM.

3–2301.

THIS SUBTITLE APPLIES ONLY:

(1) IN A COUNTY IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES HAS ESTABLISHED A PROBATION WORK READINESS PILOT PROGRAM UNDER § 3–2302 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(2) TO THE EXTENT THAT FUNDS ARE PROVIDED IN AN ANNUAL STATE BUDGET FOR A PROBATION WORK READINESS PILOT PROGRAM.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
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3–2302.

(A) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall establish a Probation Work Readiness Pilot Program in at least two counties in the State.

(B) The purpose of the Program is to provide dedicated services for individuals placed on probation to obtain and retain employment.

(C) The Program shall:

1. Provide dedicated services for individuals placed on probation to obtain and retain employment;
2. Specialize in the employment needs of individuals on probation;
3. Actively recruit employers who are receptive to employing individuals on probation;
4. Provide job training to participants based on identified needs; and
5. Implement a data management system to provide detailed information on the outcomes of participants in the Program.

(D) The Division of Parole and Probation within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall develop guidelines for the Program, including:

1. Criteria for the selection of providers of employment services under the Program;
2. Criteria for the selection of participants in the Program;
3. Limits on the maximum number of participants in the Program;
4. Stipends paid to participants in the Program, which shall be at a minimum equal to the living wage, as defined in § 18–103 of the State Finance and Procurement Article; and
(5) PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR THE PROGRAM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1, 2023, and October 1, 2024, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall submit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, that evaluates the Probation Work Readiness Pilot Program established by this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022. Section 1 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2024, Section 1 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.