

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 Third Reader

House Bill 877
 Judiciary

(Delegate Amprey)

Judicial Proceedings

Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission - Reporting and Sunset
 Extension

This bill extends the termination date of the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission by three years (from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2029). The bill also extends by three years the deadlines by which the commission must submit (1) an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly (from June 1, 2025, to June 1, 2028) and (2) a final report of its findings and recommendations (from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2029). **The bill takes effect June 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect in FY 2025. General fund expenditures increase by \$28,500 in FY 2026 to maintain contractual staff for longer. Future years reflect annualization, inflation, and the elimination of the contractual position during FY 2029, after the final report is due. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	28,500	65,600	68,400	42,100
Net Effect	\$0	(\$28,500)	(\$65,600)	(\$68,400)	(\$42,100)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapters 945 and 946 of 2024 established the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission, staffed by the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP). The commission must (1) convene an advisory stakeholder group, as specified; (2) work with the advisory stakeholder group, including conducting roundtable discussion forums seeking public input in all geographic regions of the State; (3) develop an education-focused statewide framework of policies to invest in strategies to increase public safety and reduce recidivism of adult offenders, using a data-driven approach; (4) research best practices for the primary, secondary, postsecondary, and career or vocational education of those who are subject to the criminal and juvenile justice systems; (5) identify measures to mitigate risk factors that contribute to adult contact with the criminal justice system, with a focus on education; (6) evaluate current workforce programs and their effectiveness, as specified; and (7) request technical assistance from specified organizations. Members may not receive compensation. The commission must submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by June 1, 2025; a final report is due by January 1, 2026. The commission terminates June 30, 2026.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures for GOCPP increase by \$28,451 in fiscal 2026, which reflects costs to maintain one contractual program coordinator to continue providing support for the commission beyond January 31, 2026, the date the fiscal and policy notes for Chapters 945 and 946 (Senate Bill 623/House Bill 209) assumed the contractual staff would otherwise be eliminated. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, and ongoing operating expenses.

Contractual Position	1.0
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$27,998
Operating Expenses	<u>453</u>
Total FY 2026 State Expenditures	\$28,451

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses and termination of the contractual position on January 31, 2029, after submission of the commission’s final report.

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State’s implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Any additional expense reimbursements for commission members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2025
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