

HOUSE BILL 438

E5, E4, F5

6lr1645

By: **Delegates Pasteur, Addison, Amprey, Boyce, Conaway, Crutchfield, Ebersole, Embry, Hill, Holmes, Lewis, J. Long, Martinez, McCaskill, Mireku-North, Phillips, Pruski, Ruth, Simmons, Stein, Stinnett, Taveras, White Holland, Wilkins, Williams, Wims, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Government, Labor, and Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Adult Prison School Board Model Development Committee**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Adult Prison School Board Model Development
4 Committee; and generally relating to the Adult Prison School Board Model
5 Development Committee.

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That:

8 (a) There is an Adult Prison School Board Model Development Committee.

9 (b) The Committee consists of the following members:

10 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
11 the Senate;

12 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
13 House;

14 (3) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
15 Secretary's designee;

16 (4) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
17 designee;

18 (5) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(6) the Superintendent for the Juvenile Services Education Program, or the Superintendent's designee;

(7) the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee; and

(8) the following members appointed by the Governor:

(i) a representative of Maryland Correctional Enterprises;

(ii) a national expert on correctional education issues; and

(iii) a representative of a nonprofit organization focused on correctional reform.

(c) The Governor shall appoint the chair of the Committee.

(d) The State Department of Education shall provide staff for the Committee.

(e) A member of the Committee:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Committee; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Committee shall:

(1) develop a comprehensive plan for a school board system to oversee correctional education for individuals subject to the criminal and juvenile justice systems; and

(2) conduct a fiscal mapping project for correctional education that examines the needs and options necessary to sustain a school board system, including:

(i) examining internal and external funding sources;

(ii) determining funding required for teacher salaries, professional development, educational services and supplies, and any other costs associated with developing and implementing the school board system; and

(iii) developing an independent relationship with the Department of Budget and Management to establish and manage capital and operating budgets.

(g) The school board system plan developed under subsection (f) of this section shall include:

1 (1) educational standards aligned with educational standards for school
2 systems in the State;

3 (2) a recommendation for the school board to be made up of individuals who
4 are residents of the State and who represent various State agencies or professional
5 backgrounds, including:

6 (i) representatives of the Department of Labor, the Department of
7 Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Office of the Correctional Ombudsman, the
8 Maryland Higher Education Commission, the State Department of Education, the
9 Department of Information Technology, and Maryland Correctional Enterprises;

10 (ii) formerly incarcerated students in the State;

11 (iii) representatives of relevant businesses or industry groups in the
12 State;

13 (iv) representatives of participating colleges or universities;

14 (v) representatives of a nonprofit prison reform organization; and

15 (vi) a State employee with experience related to budget processing
16 and analysis, prisons, and education.

17 (h) (1) On or before June 1, 2027, the Committee shall submit an interim
18 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
19 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

20 (2) On or before June 1, 2028, the Committee shall submit a final report of
21 its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the
22 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
24 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June
25 30, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
26 abrogated and of no further force and effect.