

# HOUSE BILL 612

E5, J1, K3

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By: **Delegates Pasteur, Coley, Mireku-North, Phillips, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                   **Correctional Education and Workforce Skills Training Programs – State**  
3                   **Correctional Ombudsman and Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Training**  
4                   **Program for Incarcerated Individuals**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the Director of Education and Workforce Skills Training for  
6                   Correctional Institutions to consult with the State Correctional Ombudsman about  
7                   the operation of education and workforce skills training programs in adult  
8                   correctional institutions; establishing the Certified Peer Recovery Specialist  
9                   Training Program for Incarcerated Individuals in the Maryland Department of  
10                  Labor; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to create certain positions to  
11                  provide correctional education staff and certified peer recovery specialists for the  
12                  Program; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor and the Department of  
13                  Public Safety and Correctional Services to use funds appropriated in the budget for  
14                  the Program for certain purposes; and generally relating to education and workforce  
15                  skills training programs provided by the Maryland Department of Labor.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
17                  Article – Health – General  
18                  Section 7.5–101(a) and (n)  
19                  Annotated Code of Maryland  
20                  (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
22                  Article – Labor and Employment  
23                  Section 11–101(a) and (b)  
24                  Annotated Code of Maryland  
25                  (2025 Replacement Volume)

26 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
27                  Article – Labor and Employment  
28                  Section 11–903

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



## Annotated Code of Maryland (2025 Replacement Volume)

ding to  
Article – Labor and Employment  
Section 11–903.1  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2025 Replacement Volume)

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

## Article – Health – General

11 7.5–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

13       (n) “Peer support services” means a set of nonclinical activities provided by  
14 individuals in recovery from mental disorders, substance-related disorders, or addictive  
15 disorders who use their personal, lived experiences and training to support other  
16 individuals with mental disorders, substance-related disorders, or addictive disorders.

## Article – Labor and Employment

18 11-101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) "Department" means the Maryland Department of Labor.

21 11-903.

22 (a) The Department is responsible for the provision of education and workforce  
23 skills training programs in the adult correctional institutions in the State.

24 (b) The Secretary shall appoint a Director of Education and Workforce Skills  
25 Training for Correctional Institutions.

26 (c) The Director shall receive the salary provided in the budget of the  
27 Department.

28 (d) The Director shall:

(1) implement and operate the educational and workforce skills training programs developed by the Council in the correctional institutions;

(2) meet with and advise the Council about the programs;

2 (3) consult with the Commissioner of Correction [and], the warden of each  
3 institution, **AND THE STATE CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN, OR THE OMBUDSMAN'S**  
4 **DESIGNEE**, about the operation of the programs; and

5 (4) set qualification standards for teachers in workforce skills training  
6 programs who are employed by the Department that are similar to the standards for  
7 teachers providing CTE instruction in accordance with § 7-205.1 of the Education Article.

11 11-903.1.

12 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
13 INDICATED.

17 (3) "CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION" MEANS A PLACE OF DETENTION  
18 OR CORRECTIONAL CONFINEMENT OPERATED BY OR FOR THE STATE.

22 (5) "PEER SUPPORT SERVICES" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
23 7.5-101 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE

26 (B) THERE IS A CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST TRAINING  
27 PROGRAM FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN THE DEPARTMENT

28 (c) THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM ARE TO:

6 (D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM IN  
7 CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL  
8 SERVICES, THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE MARYLAND  
9 OFFICE OF OVERDOSE RESPONSE.

14 (II) FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CORRECTIONAL  
15 EDUCATION SCHOOLS AND THE CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST  
16 SUPERVISORS; AND

17 (III) ASSIST WITH TRAINING, DATA MANAGEMENT, AND  
18 CONSISTENT PROGRAM DELIVERY ACROSS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

22 (E) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER,  
23 THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION  
24 SUFFICIENT FOR THE OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.

4 (I) ENHANCE THE DAILY WAGE FOR INCARCERATED  
5 INDIVIDUALS WHO PROVIDE CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST SERVICES;  
6 AND

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
11 1, 2026.