

HOUSE BILL 612

E5, J1, K3

6lr1656

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

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

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

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.

(a) The Department is responsible for the provision of education and workforce 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

24 (6) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY
25 SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAM FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

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.

12 (I) PROVIDE DIRECT SUPPORT TO CERTIFIED PEER RECOVERY
13 SPECIALIST TRAINEES;

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

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.