

HOUSE BILL 1340

P1, E5

6lr3390

By: **Delegates Amprey and Ruff**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission –**
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission as an
5 independent unit of State government; and generally relating to the Prison
6 Education Delivery Reform Commission.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – State Government

9 Section 9–4201 and 9–4202 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 42. Prison
10 Education Delivery Reform Commission”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – State Government**

16 **SUBTITLE 42. PRISON EDUCATION DELIVERY REFORM COMMISSION.**

17 **9–4201.**

18 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “COMMISSION” MEANS THE PRISON EDUCATION**
19 **DELIVERY REFORM COMMISSION.**

20 **9–4202.**

21 **(A) (1) THERE IS A PRISON EDUCATION DELIVERY REFORM**
22 **COMMISSION ESTABLISHED AS AN INDEPENDENT UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO DEVELOP**
2 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE OPTIMAL DELIVERY OF EDUCATION TO INDIVIDUALS**
3 **SUBJECT TO THE CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS TO INCREASE PUBLIC**
4 **SAFETY AND REDUCE RECIDIVISM.**

5 **(B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

6 **(1) THREE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY**
7 **THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

8 **(2) THREE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY**
9 **THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

10 **(3) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL**
11 **SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

12 **(4) THE SECRETARY OF JUVENILE SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S**
13 **DESIGNEE;**

14 **(5) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S**
15 **DESIGNEE;**

16 **(6) THE PUBLIC DEFENDER OF MARYLAND, OR THE PUBLIC**
17 **DEFENDER'S DESIGNEE;**

18 **(7) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND JUDICIARY, APPOINTED**
19 **BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND;**

20 **(8) THE SECRETARY OF THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION**
21 **COMMISSION, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

22 **(9) THE SECRETARY OF LABOR, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

23 **(10) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE**
24 **SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE; AND**

25 **(11) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:**

26 **(I) A NATIONAL EXPERT ON CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION**
27 **ISSUES;**

1 (II) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A FOUNDATION WITH EXPERTISE IN
2 CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEMS;

3 (III) A REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
4 AGENCIES;

5 (IV) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND STATE'S
6 ATTORNEYS' ASSOCIATION;

7 (V) A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ADULT PRISON SERVICES
8 PROVIDER BUREAU;

9 (VI) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
10 ORGANIZATION;

11 (VII) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GOUCHER COLLEGE
12 PRISON EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP;

13 (VIII) A REPRESENTATIVE OF MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL
14 ENTERPRISES; AND

15 (IX) TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OR WERE UNDER THE
16 SUPERVISION OF THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION.

17 (C) (1) THE TERM OF AN APPOINTED MEMBER IS 4 YEARS.

18 (2) THE TERMS OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS
19 REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON JUNE
20 1, 2026.

21 (3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL
22 A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

23 (4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES
24 ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND
25 QUALIFIES.

26 (5) AN APPOINTED MEMBER WHO SERVES TWO CONSECUTIVE FULL
27 4-YEAR TERMS MAY NOT BE REAPPOINTED FOR 4 YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF
28 THOSE TERMS.

29 (D) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION.

1 **(E) THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY SHALL**
2 **PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION.**

3 **(F) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:**

4 **(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**
5 **COMMISSION; BUT**

6 **(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE**
7 **STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

8 **(G) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

9 **(1) CONVENE AN ADVISORY STAKEHOLDER GROUP THAT INCLUDES**
10 **ORGANIZATIONS WITH EXPERIENCE IN:**

11 **(I) CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY REFORM;**

12 **(II) ADVOCATING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LEARNING**
13 **DISABILITIES AND THOSE FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES;**

14 **(III) RESTORATIVE JUSTICE; AND**

15 **(IV) PEER RECOVERY AND SUPPORT SERVICES;**

16 **(2) WORK WITH THE ADVISORY STAKEHOLDER GROUP, INCLUDING**
17 **CONDUCTING ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION FORUMS SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT IN ALL**
18 **GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF THE STATE;**

19 **(3) DEVELOP AN EDUCATION–FOCUSED STATEWIDE FRAMEWORK OF**
20 **POLICIES TO INVEST IN STRATEGIES TO INCREASE PUBLIC SAFETY AND REDUCE**
21 **RECIDIVISM OF ADULT OFFENDERS, USING A DATA–DRIVEN APPROACH;**

22 **(4) RESEARCH BEST PRACTICES FOR THE PRIMARY, SECONDARY,**
23 **POSTSECONDARY, AND CAREER OR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OF THOSE WHO ARE**
24 **SUBJECT TO THE CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS;**

25 **(5) IDENTIFY MEASURES TO MITIGATE RISK FACTORS THAT**
26 **CONTRIBUTE TO ADULT CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, WITH A**
27 **FOCUS ON EDUCATION;**

28 **(6) EVALUATE CURRENT WORKFORCE PROGRAMS IN WHICH**
29 **INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATE AND THE PROGRAMS’ EFFECTIVENESS**

1 IN TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAT RESULT IN LIVING WAGES;
2 AND

3 (7) REQUEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM:

4 (I) THE ABELL FOUNDATION;

5 (II) THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION;

6 (III) THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS;

7 (IV) THE VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE;

8 (V) THE COALITION ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION;

9 (VI) THE RAND CORPORATION; AND

10 (VII) OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SIMILAR TO THE ORGANIZATIONS
11 LISTED UNDER ITEMS (I) THROUGH (VI) OF THIS ITEM.

12 (H) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2027, AND EACH JANUARY 1 THEREAFTER,
13 THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION'S
14 ACTIVITIES, FINDINGS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN
15 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

16 SECTION 2. AND IT BE FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the appointed
17 members of the Prison Education Delivery Commission who are members of the
18 Commission on the effective date of Section 1 of this Act or initially appointed after the
19 effective date shall expire as follows:

20 (1) five members in 2027;

21 (2) six members in 2028; and

22 (3) six members in 2029.

23 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
24 1, 2026.