

DPSCS_FAV_SB70

Uploaded by: Kahl, Catherine

Position: FAV



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

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BILL: SENATE BILL 70

POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION: Senate Bill 70 proposes to alter the minimum number of calendar days the Correctional Education Council must require certain inmates in correctional institutions to participate in a certain mandatory education program.

COMMENTS:

- The Department's Division of Correction (DOC) operates approximately 17 State correctional facilities, which house offenders sentenced to incarceration for 18 months and longer. The Department also runs the Baltimore City Jail, which houses pretrial detainees and inmates sentenced to incarceration for 18 months and less.
- SB 70 proposes to increase the number of mandatory calendar days an inmate must participate in correctional education from 120 to 240 days, which will hopefully lead to an increase in the number of GEDs awarded to the incarcerated population.
- Education has been linked to lower recidivism rates. A 2013 report from Rand Corporation determined "inmates that participate in academic and occupational training programs are 43 percent less likely to return to prison."ⁱ
- More GEDs mean more secondary education, vocational, and work opportunities while incarcerated. The DOC has partnered with a number of higher education institutions, offering college classes. Increasing the number of GEDs earned each year will hopefully increase participating in college courses.
- Programs operated by Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) and the Department of Labor require inmates to have a GED (or high school diploma) to be eligible to accept a job or participate in occupational or vocational training. Increasing the minimum number of calendar days inmates are required to participate in educational classes will result in an increase in the number of GEDs issued each year, an increase in the candidate pool for skilled position opportunities.

- More importantly, GED and/or industry certification allows the inmate to return to the community with increased knowledge and skills and will assist the offender with maintaining sustainability in the community, thus lowering recidivism rates.

CONCLUSION: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services urges a **FAVORABLE** committee report on Senate Bill 70.

ⁱ RAND Corporation. (2013, August 22). *Education and Vocational Training in Prisons Reduces Recidivism, Improves Job Outlook*. Retrieved from: <http://www.rand.org/news/press/2013/08/22.html>

MD Catholic Conference _FAV_SB70

Uploaded by: O'Day, Garrett

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

January 30, 2020

SB 70

**Correctional Institutions – Correctional Education Council – Mandatory
Education Program Requirements**

Senate Finance Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 70. The Catholic Conference represents the public-policy interests of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, including the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington and the Diocese of Wilmington, which together encompass over one million Marylanders.

Senate Bill 70 would require that inmates in state correctional facilities are provided the lesser of a total of 240 hours of educational program or the number of hours it takes them to obtain a GED. Current law requires the state’s Correctional Education Council to develop educational and workforce training programs for adult inmates. The Council is also responsible for regulations for mandatory education programming or mandatory workforce skills training program for inmates. Current law requires a minimum of 120 calendar days of educational programming for inmates who have at least 18 months or more left to serve and who do not yet possess a high school diploma or GED. Thus, this bill would double the requisite education programming for those inmates.

In its pastoral statement “Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice” (USCCB, 2000), the United States conference of Catholic Bishops cited the “absence of educational opportunities” among considerations “contributing to a high rate of recidivism”. The USCCB also cited “education” as one of the key “necessities that enable inmates to live in dignity”.

The Church maintains that systems of justice, including incarceration, should be centered around *restorative* justice. In doing so, systems of justice provide for second chances, providing hope for those who are incarcerated. Education is a means to a fruitful and productive life upon release and is a preventative measure against post-release poverty and/or recidivism. For these important reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 70.

DepartmentofLabor_FAV_SB70

Uploaded by: Rzepkowski, James

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 70

Date: January 30, 2020
Committee: Senate Finance
Bill Title: Correctional Education – Changes in Mandatory Education Requirement
Re: **Letter of Support**

Senate Bill 70 increases the mandatory schooling requirement for non-exempt inmates from 120 calendar days to 240 calendar days, or until a Maryland High School Diploma is achieved.

The 120 correctional education calendar days outlined in statute includes weekends, holidays, and lockdowns, which results in approximately 80-90 days of actual instruction. Due to varying levels of literacy and numeracy among Maryland's inmate population, many inmates are unable to achieve a High School Diploma within 120 calendar days.

Senate Bill 70 aligns Maryland law with the Federal Bureau of Prisons mandatory school requirement, which stipulates 240 days of attendance. With an increase to 240 calendar days, the Department estimates an increase to approximately 160-180 days of in-class instruction. This increased instructional time will ensure appropriate preparation for the GED test, better prepare inmates for sustainable employment, and promote reentry upon release.

The Maryland Department of Labor (Department) provides oversight of academic, occupational, and transitional programming throughout prisons in the State of Maryland. Maryland's academic Correctional Education programs have some of the highest adult education outcomes in the State when compared to other providers and students achieve more when they remain engaged in school for longer periods of time. Of the 524 inmates under the age of 21 served in FY19, only 55 received their High School Diploma and many opted out of school after the required 120 calendar days.

Data proves that the Department's Correctional Education courses are effective, but additional time would lead to increased success. In FY19, 41% of Adult Basic Education students enrolled in academic programming at correctional institutions were at Levels 1 and 2 (the lowest assessed measure). However, level-completion rates for these students were 57.2% and 55.6%, significantly higher than the State average of 45.2% and 41.8%. Increased instructional time will allow such students to continue onto Levels 3 and 4 and prepare for the GED test.

Senate Bill 70 will increase participation in programming, limit inmate idle time, and promote successful reentry to society. **For these reasons, the Department respectfully requests a favorable report from the committee on Senate Bill 70.**

MDACC_Sadusky_FAV_SB70

Uploaded by: Sadusky, Dr. Bernard

Position: FAV



Finance Committee

TESTIMONY

Submitted by

Dr. Bernard Sadusky, Executive Director

January 30, 2020

BILL: SB 70 – Correctional Institutions - Correctional Education Council - Mandatory Education Program Requirements

POSITION: Support

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges ("MACC") representing all of Maryland's 16 community colleges support SB 70, which requires inmates in correctional institutions to participate in a certain mandatory educational program. Essentially, the bill requires participation in already established educational programs, which our community colleges capably already offer at our correctional institutional facilities.

Currently, AACC, Hagerstown Community College, and Wor-Wic Community Colleges offer programming for inmates to either receive their diploma/GED or enhance their workforce skills. All of our existing programs enhance the inmate's employment potential once they are released. Our community colleges also have the ability to expand workforce skill training programs to meet current market force needs, if so desired by the Correctional Education Council.

The legislation has the capacity of meeting the needs of the individual and the State of Maryland's diverse economic workforce.

EpiscopalDioceseof MD_FAV_SB70

Uploaded by: Shahinian, Rev. Kathy

Position: FAV



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

Support – SB 70
Senate Finance Committee
Correctional Institutions - Correctional Education Council - Mandatory Education Program
Requirements
1/30/2020

Good afternoon Chairwoman Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is the Rev. Kathy Shahinian, Legislative Liaison for the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland and today we are asking for your support of SB 70.

Education can be a gateway to social and economic mobility. Sadly however, this opportunity is being scaled back or reduced to a significant portion of more than 2.3 million individuals currently incarcerated in the United States.

“Correctional education” refers to a wide variety of educational programs available to men and women under correctional supervision. The types of programs range from basic skills training to college and vocational training that provide the skills necessary for people to obtain employment upon release.

Correctional Education programs can play a critical role in the successful reentry of individuals returning home from incarceration. A growing body of research has shown a link between education programs, decreased recidivism rates, and positive employment outcomes. For example, a study from the Rand Corporation found that individuals who participated in a correctional education program had 43 percent lower odds of recidivating than those who did not, with 13 percent higher odds of obtaining a job after release.

Because the prison system can be a painful and damaging process for inmates and their families, these individuals are often in great need of being treated with dignity and compassion, as our faith calls us to do. Providing education is a good way to do it.

We ask your support for SB 70.