

**SB0086 - 1.14.21 -- Correctional Institutions - Co**

Uploaded by: Fry, Donald

Position: FAV



# POSITION STATEMENT

## TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

### SENATE BILL 86 – CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS - CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL - MANDATORY EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Sponsor – Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Department of Labor)  
January 14, 2021

DONALD C. FRY  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

#### Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports Senate Bill 86, which increases the mandatory schooling requirement for eligible inmates from 120 calendar days to 240 calendar days. Senate Bill 86 would also bring the minimum correctional education requirements into alignment with those of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The GBC strongly supports enhanced education and job training for individuals within the correctional system, including both the incarcerated and those under supervision in the community. Expanding the educational requirements for inmates will promote better outcomes, including: increased literacy and basic education and employability upon release.

A meta-analytic review of the effectiveness of correctional education conducted by the [RAND Corporation in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) shows a strong positive correlation between correctional education and reduced recidivism. Key findings from their research indicate that, on average:

- *“inmates who participated in correctional education programs had 43 percent lower odds of recidivating than inmates who did not;*
- *inmates who participated in high school/GED programs had a 30 percent lower odds of recidivating than inmates who did not; and*
- *the odds of obtaining employment post-release among inmates who participated in correctional education (either academic or vocational programs) were 13 percent higher than the odds for those who did not”*

This bill is consistent with multiple tenets of the Greater Baltimore Committee’s 2021 Legislative Priorities which include provisions to:

- 1) Strengthen education and workforce systems to prioritize equity, accountability, and alignment with Maryland’s high-growth industry sectors; and
- 2) Improve public safety through enhanced coordination among criminal justice agencies and implementation of comprehensive violence reduction strategies and coordinated re-entry services.
- 3) Increase efforts to implement programs in the criminal justice system that address trauma, addiction, and mental health and provide access to rehabilitative treatment, education, and workforce training.

**For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 86.**

*The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 66-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.*

**GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

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# **SB 86 Dept. of Labor Letter of Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Harrison, Michael

Position: FAV

## Senate Bill 86

Date: January 14, 2021  
Committee: Senate Finance  
Bill Title: *Correctional Education – Changes in Mandatory Education Requirement*  
Re: Letter of Support

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SB 86, *Correctional Education – Changes in Mandatory Education Requirement* proposes increasing the mandatory school requirement for non-exempt inmates from 120 calendar days to 240 calendar days, or until a Maryland High School Diploma is achieved, whichever comes first. This will enable increased participation in programming, limiting inmate idle time and increasing the likelihood of successful reentrance to society.

The Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) oversees academic, occupational, and transitional programming throughout prisons in the State of Maryland and recognizes that varying levels of literacy and numeracy among the inmate population often makes achieving a High School Diploma in 120 calendar days infeasible. The 120 correctional education calendar days outlined in statute actually translates to 80-90 instructional days in practice due to weekends, holidays, lockdowns, etc. If increased to 240 days, it is estimated that this would equate to 160-180 actual days of school. This modification aligns with the Federal Bureau of Prisons mandatory school requirement that stipulates 240 days of attendance.

Maryland’s academic Correctional Education programs have some of the highest adult education outcomes in the State, and students achieve more when they remain engaged in school for longer. Of the 524 inmates under the age of 21 served in FY19, only 55 received their High School Diploma. **Many opted out of school after the required 120 calendar days.** Data shows that MD Labor’s Correctional Education courses are effective, but additional time would lead to increased success. In FY19, 1,142 of the 2,778 Adult Basic Education students enrolled in academic programming at correctional institutions were at Levels 1 and 2 (the lowest assessed measure), representing 41% that were not yet “GED Ready.” 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 would allow such students to continue onto Levels 3 and 4 and prepare for the GED test. (FY19 data represents the full picture of an academic year not interrupted by COVID-19).

SB 86 is a reintroduction of SB 70 from the 2020 legislative session, which passed the Senate unanimously. With this information, the Department respectfully asks for a favorable report from the committee and stands ready to answer any questions the committee may have.

For additional information, please contact Andrew Fulginiti at [Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov](mailto:Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov)

# **DPSCS\_SUPPORT\_SB0086**

Uploaded by: Kahl, Catherine

Position: FAV



## Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

### Office of the Secretary

#### Office of Government and Legislative Affairs

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STATE OF MARYLAND

LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

**BILL: SENATE BILL 86**

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD  
LT. GOVERNOR

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

ROBERT L. GREEN  
SECRETARY

**EXPLANATION:** Senate Bill 86 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.

RACHEL SESSA  
CHIEF OF STAFF

CHRISTOPHER McCULLY  
DEPUTY SECRETARY  
ADMINISTRATION

### **COMMENTS:**

WAYNE HILL  
ACTING  
DEPUTY SECRETARY  
OPERATIONS

- 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 of Public Safety and Correctional Services also runs the Baltimore City Jail, which houses pretrial detainees and inmates sentenced to incarceration for 18 months and less.

CAROLYN J. SRUGGS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

- SB 86 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.

GARY W. McLHINNEY  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

- 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."<sup>1</sup>

CATHERINE KAHL  
ACTING DIRECTOR

- 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 participation 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

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 and an increase in the candidate pool for skilled position opportunities.

- More importantly, GED and/or industry certification allows inmates to return to the community with increased knowledge and skills and will assist 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 86.

**MarylandCatholicConference\_FAV\_SB0086.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kraska, MJ

Position: FAV





ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

**January 14, 2021**

**SB 86**

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

**Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 86. 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 86 would require that inmates in state correctional facilities are provided the lesser of a total of 240 days 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 86.