



Carrington & Associates, LLC

"Continuing A Tradition of Excellence"

HB 1337 – Public Institutions of Higher Education - Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals - Academic and Employment Opportunities – SUPPORT w/Amendments

Carrington & Associates, LLC SUPPORTS HB 1337. This bill is a pilot program at 4 HBCU's Bowie State, Coppin State, Morgan State and UMD Eastern Shore. Each campus will have a primary contact person that will work directly with the returning citizens and coordinate to support the returning citizen in success in the curriculum. The primary contact person must be over 18, registered at the institution and enrolled in their junior or senior year. The program is jointly administered by the MD Higher Ed Commission and the Division of Corrections within the Dept of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

We would like to thank Senator Obie Patterson for introducing this legislation and his steadfast commitment to civil rights for all citizens. This legislation provides opportunities for returning citizens to gain access to our institutions of higher learning in their pursuit of life-changing course work. This course work will eventually lead the program participants toward a degree, licensing and/or certification in a sought-after industry-recognized discipline. We are very grateful to the HBCU's for stepping up to assist this effort in getting off the ground. The unique experiences of the enrolled students that will serve as mentors and support for program participants will be impactful and hopefully lead to successful outcomes. The reporting mechanisms are equally important as we document the participants progress toward the goals of the pilot program.

We have spoken with the Senator's office and believe that we should increase the time period for interaction with the program participants from 9 months to 12 months and ensure that the primary contact works with the program participant over the 2 years that they agree to update the program on their progress.

For these reasons, Carrington & Associates, LLC enthusiastically **SUPPORTS HB 1337 with the amendments mentioned** and asks for your **FAVORABLE** report.