



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

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BILL: SENATE BILL 800

POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

EXPLANATION: This bill will establish an Inmate Training and Job Pilot Program at four universities of higher education. The Pilot program is to be administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission for the purpose of providing educational and vocational training opportunities for an inmate in the 12 months preceding the inmate's date of release.

COMMENTS:

- The Department's Division of Correction (DOC) operates approximately 17 State correctional facilities that house offenders sentenced to incarceration for 18 months and longer. The Department also runs the Baltimore City Pretrial Complex which houses pretrial detainees and inmates sentenced to incarceration for 18 months and less.
- SB 800 provides that the Maryland Higher Education Commission shall administer an Inmate Training and Job Pilot Program at Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for the purpose of providing educational and vocational training opportunities for an inmate in the 12 months preceding the inmate's date of release.
- The Department of Labor currently provides correctional educational opportunities to inmates through programs offered at each State correctional institution. The mission is to provide incarcerated individuals with educational and workforce development opportunities that facilitates a successful transition into community.
- The Department recognizes the value of education and has demonstrated success in partnering with colleges and universities to provide continued education to incarcerated individuals. These partnerships have allowed individuals to receive certificates, associates degrees, and bachelors degrees.
- The Second Chance Pell Program supports postsecondary education programs for individuals in prison and affords inmates the opportunity to receive higher education certificates and degrees. The Department already

has partnerships with four of Maryland's higher education institutions who were awarded the Second Chance Pell Grant: Goucher College; Anne Arundel Community College; Wor-Wic Community College; and the University of Baltimore.

- With the recent expansion of the Second Chance Pell Program, the DOC is growing partnerships with more colleges throughout the State, including the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Bowie State University.

CONCLUSION: For these reasons, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as it deliberates Senate Bill 800.