



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

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Lieutenant Governor

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Secretary

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Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 800 Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021 (Patterson)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: March 9, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs

SUMMARY OF BILL:. SB 800 creates an Inmate Training and Job Pilot Program at each of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities to provide educational and vocational training opportunities for an inmate in the nine months preceding the inmate's date of release. The program is administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and the higher education institution, with the cooperation of the Division of Corrections. Each inmate is assigned a primary contact at the higher education institution and three student mentors to provide support through their virtual coursework. MHEC shall facilitate inmate contact with nonprofit organizations regarding job placement, housing and counseling services. The bill mandates an appropriation in the amount of: \$125,000 in FY 2023; \$137,500 in FY 2024; \$151,250 in FY 2025; \$151,250 in FY 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter. Costs associated with the Pilot Program are administrative costs at MHEC and Division of Corrections, grants to participating HBCUs, and stipends to student mentors.

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the following mandated appropriation amounts: \$125,000 in FY 2023; \$137,500 in FY2024; \$151, 250 in FY 2025; and \$151, 250 in FY 2026 and thereafter.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which requires spending allocations for FY 2022 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2020.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19, making revenue predictions for the remainder of FY 2021 and FY 2022 highly volatile. Many individuals and households are unemployed or underemployed, with many industry sectors operating at much less than 100% capacity. Federal stimulus programs are providing much needed relief, but the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability.

The General Assembly and Administration have successfully enacted the Governor's emergency Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families Act (SB 496 RELIEF Act), which provides \$1.1 billion in direct stimulus and tax relief for Maryland working families, small businesses, and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is incumbent upon us to allow the impact of this unprecedented relief package on the State's economy to take effect. Further mandated spending increases need to be reevaluated within the context of an ongoing pandemic.

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