

HB1245 FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I do not agree with the compensation rate of Minimum wage for inmates as written in this bill.

(2) THE COMPENSATION RATE FOR INMATE LABOR IN MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES MAY NOT BE LESS THAN THE MINIMUM WAGE UNDER THE FEDERAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT.

I want to suggest one of two reasonable options:

1. I am assuming that inmates have no cost burden for being incarcerated ie rent, food. Additionally this bill offers job training which has great value. I understand that it is reasonable to provide compensation for an inmate's labor, but not at the minimum wage standard. Currently the wage is determined by another entity. There are plenty of minimum wage workers in the market place who have to pay for rent and food. Minimum wage applied to an inmates labor is not fair to unincarcerated workers who work at minimum wage and have to pay for rent and food.

An alternative might be this:

2. Pay the inmates minimum wage, however charge them for the job training. I have no concept how much that would be, but applying this option is an example of what life really is and would be good for the inmates. So, I'm ok with this bill, providing one of the two options are applied as amendments.

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