



**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Office of the Secretary**

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STATE OF MARYLAND

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

BILL: HOUSE BILL 25

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

EXPLANATION: This bill requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Department), to set goals and create a tracking system for the number of incarcerated individuals in rehabilitation programs. In addition, the bill will require the Department to assist incarcerated individuals in accessing federal Pell grants for higher education and to consult with four Maryland universities. The bill will also require funding in the annual budget for the development of the rehabilitation programs and tracking system.

ROBERT L. GREEN
SECRETARY

RACHEL SESSA
CHIEF OF STAFF

SASHA VAZQUEZ-GONZALEZ
ACTING
DEPUTY SECRETARY
ADMINISTRATION

COMMENTS:

WAYNE HILL
DEPUTY SECRETARY
OPERATIONS

- The Department's Division of Correction (DOC) operates 13 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.
- The Department of Labor's Division of Workforce Development provides educational, occupational, and vocational training to incarcerated individuals within State correctional facilities. These services include both academic and workforce development instruction, including pre-apprenticeship and occupational programs.
- In addition, the Department of Labor has Re-Entry Navigators that assist justice involved individuals by increasing their employability, providing equal opportunity and access to employment resources, employment assistance, referral services to job seekers, technical assistance, professional development to a wide range of government and community-based organizations, and information and incentives to businesses.
 - The Navigators meet with students prior to release and are the first point of contact for many of our students post-release at their local American Job Centers.
 - Additionally, the Navigators work with the Department's Transition Specialist to ensure any barriers for returning citizens coming home are tackled prior to release

- Education is a vital component of reentry. The Department and the Department of Labor 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 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.
- The Inmate Training and Job Act (SB800) passed last session establishing a pilot program that will be administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission to provide educational and vocational training opportunities for incarcerated individuals in the 12 months preceding their release. The pilot program will be administered in partnership with Morgan State University, Bowie State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Coppin State University.
- Due to the tremendous efforts of the Department of Labor's correctional education and workforce development programming, tracking the progress of returning citizens is best suited for Labor.
- As such, the Department would like to offer the following amendments:
 - On page 1, in line 22 after "Department" on line 22, add of Labor
 - On page 2, in lines 1, 4, 6, and 12, strike "**REHABILITATION**" and insert Education.
 - On page 2, line 16, strike beginning with "**(A)**" through **CAMPUS** on line 24

CONCLUSION: For these reasons, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee vote favorably with amendments as it deliberates House Bill 25.