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THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: SB 156 - Prince George's County - Prince George's County Reentry Employment Incentive Program - Funding

SPONSOR: Prince George's County Senators

HEARING DATE: January 25, 2023

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS SB 156 - Prince George's County - Prince George's County Reentry Employment Incentive Program - Funding**, which annually provides \$500,000 to Prince George's County for our Reentry Employment Incentive Program for fiscal years 2025 through 2028.

Prince George's County has the second highest number of citizens returning from incarceration in the State of Maryland. National studies have shown that steady employment of formerly incarcerated individuals reduces rates of recidivism, gives those citizens a promising path back into society, and creates overall economic and social benefits for the community.

The Prince George's County Reentry Employment Incentive Program encourages County-based employers to hire returning citizens by providing businesses with financial assistance by supplementing a portion of a new employee's salary through reimbursement and decreases the amount of unemployed formerly incarcerated residents. The matching funds will allow for a doubling of this program.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 156** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

JacksonSB156Testimony.pdf

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY – SENATE BILL 156

***PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY – PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
REENTRY EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM – FUNDING***

BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE

JANUARY 25, 2023

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Fellow Committee Members:

Senate Bill 156 is a very straightforward bill that simply requires the Governor to appropriate \$500,000 in fiscal years 2025 through 2028 to Prince George's County to provide matching funds for the Prince George's County Reentry Employment Incentive Program.

This is a simple piece of legislation that helps to ensure the success of this important program. Prince George's County has the second-highest number of citizens returning from incarceration in the State of Maryland. The funding of this program has proven an invaluable asset in helping to reduce rates of recidivism and given these returning citizens a promising path back into society. This legislation has clearly created a positive overall economic impact and measurable social benefits for the county as a whole.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 156.