



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

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HOUSE BILL 1057 Correctional Services – Inmates – Labor, Job Training, and Educational Courses

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: March 9, 2023

COMMITTEE: House Judiciary

SUMMARY OF BILL: HB 1057 requires the compensation rate for inmate labor in Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) to be set at \$5 per hour. The bill also requires that the Division of Correction (DOC) offer job training to all inmates. The legislation requires the Maryland Department of Labor to evaluate the job training and educational courses offered by the DOC and to submit a report every three years on their findings. This bill was cross-filed with SB 941, which requires the compensation rate for inmate labor in Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) to meet the federal minimum wage, which is currently \$7.25 per hour.

EXPLANATION: According to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), the passage of either of these bills would have a detrimental impact on the mission of MCE. DPSCS estimates that under HB 1057, MCE’s expenditures for inmate stipends would increase from \$1.8 million in FY 2022, for 1,200 program participants, to \$7.6 million in the first year of the bill’s implementation. The Department believes that in future years inmate stipends **would exceed \$15 million annually**.

Passage of this legislation would eliminate MCE’s self-supporting status and require general fund support to fund the program and maintain the requirements of the proposed bills. Should general funds not be sufficient, MCE would have no choice but to downsize their operations, which would directly impact inmate programming and work opportunities. A decrease in MCE operations would result in increases of inmate idle time, which would necessitate additional staff to monitor the population. Given current staffing issues this would likely result in a further reliance on overtime, which has a direct impact on facility staff morale.

General Fund Structural Budget Outlook, Fiscal 2024 – 2028 (\$ millions)

	Est. 2024	Est. 20235	Est. 2026	Est. 2027	Est. 2028
Structural Balance	\$337	\$232	\$263	\$529	\$1,113
Adjusted for Blueprint				-\$963	-\$1,207

Department of Legislative Services, January 2023 Fiscal Briefing

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