



To: Members of The House Appropriations Committee
From: Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section,
Maryland State Bar Association
Date: February 9, 2024
Subject: **HB92 - Resources and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act**
Position: **SUPPORT**

The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **Supports HB92 Resources and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act**

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to assist incarcerated individuals in applying for and taking advantage of federal Pell grants for education in cooperation with academic institutions in the state. It requires that the Department of Labor play a more active role in the provision of educational services to incarcerated individuals. This includes tracking participation, setting goals for participation and reporting on results.

The bill draws upon the evidence that education can play a large role in the reform, rehabilitation and successful reentry into civil society of individuals in our correctional system. It backs that evidence with specific guidance to DPSC and DOL that will allow the General Assembly and the public to see what is being done.

While the bill directs the Governor to include funds in his budget to assist in the marketing of the program to the target population of individuals, it does not specify the amount leaving that to the discretion of the agencies and the General Assembly.

For the reasons stated, we **Support HB92 - Resources and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act.**

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section's Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at doyleniemann@gmail.com.

Should you have other questions, please contact The MSBA's Legislative Office at (410) 387-5606..