

Honorable Delegates

Please vote against SB0620.

Although helping incarcerated individuals seek Federal grants is a noble sentiment, I believe our limited taxpayer funds could be better spent, if spent at all, on other endeavors such as helping our students seek these grants rather than establishing an elaborate system to:

- (1) SET GOALS FOR THE NUMBER OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS;
- (2) ESTABLISH A TRACKING SYSTEM FOR THE NUMBER OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS;
- (3) ESTABLISH A TRACKING SYSTEM FOR THE PROGRESS OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE CREDITS THAT EACH INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL EARNS IN AN APPROVED COLLEGE PROGRAM; AND
- (4) FORWARD, AT AN AGREED-ON INTERVAL, THE TRACKING DATA FOR THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE CREDITS THAT EACH INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL EARNS IN AN APPROVED COLLEGE PROGRAM TO THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION.

In addition to the expense of creating, maintaining, and staffing the new system, this bill would then commit to spending money annually to advertise available education programs to prisoners.

(E) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO USE FOR MARKETING FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS AND FOR THE TRACKING SYSTEMS FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

I would think it would be far less expensive to adopt a low tech approach to help prisoners get an education. An existing employee in each prison could take on the role of guidance counselor who could help interested prisoners seek these grants and who could market the available educational programs by placing flyers in the prison libraries.

Please defeat this bill and save the taxpayers' money, or at the very least, least spend it on the non-criminals in our society.

At a time when we have structural budget deficits over \$3 billion looming because of the unfunded Kirwan Educational Program and a transportation fund that cannot deal with our aging roads and bridges because of the additions of future mass transit projects such as the Red Line construction, why are we creating an additional bureaucracy?

After 40 years as a federal auditor, I learned that cost projections for new components are always underestimated, and the staffing almost always increases over time.

As a relative recent retiree, I would like to stay in Maryland, but the budget for next year and the next several years are going to constantly whittle away at my pension to pay for new programs when we cannot pay for the programs we already have. Just like the proposed tax increases are going to force me to find WAYS to cut back so I have the MEANS to live within my budget, you should consider WAYS and MEANS of cutting waste and programs before funding additional programs that will not meet their objectives.

Please vote against SB0620.

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