



CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC
Integrity.Passion.Results
Since 2008

SB620/HB92 - Resources and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act

SUPPORT

Carrington & Associates, LLC is writing to express our full support for Senate Bill 620 and its companion House Bill 92, collectively known as the Resources and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act. The proposed legislation, introduced by Senator Carter, outlines crucial initiatives that align with our commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals within the Division of Correction (DOC) in the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL).

The key provisions of SB620/HB92 include:

1. Setting Goals and Tracking Systems:

- MDL is mandated to establish goals for the number of incarcerated individuals in education programs.
- Implementation of tracking systems to monitor both the number of individuals participating in education programs and their progress.

2. Collaboration with Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC):

- Forwarding relevant data to MHEC to facilitate collaboration and support in creating the necessary tracking systems.

3. Funding for Marketing and Tracking Systems:

- Annual funding provided in the budget bill to support MDL's marketing efforts for education programs and the required tracking systems.

4. Assistance in Accessing Federal Pell Grants:

- The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is directed to assist incarcerated individuals in accessing federal Pell Grants for higher education.

5. Reporting and Evaluation:

- Detailed reporting requirements for program participants, participating institutions, and an interim/final report by MHEC to the Governor and the General Assembly on the program's progress.

We believe that these initiatives are essential steps towards ensuring that incarcerated individuals have access to meaningful educational opportunities, ultimately contributing to their rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society.

While we acknowledge the fiscal impact outlined in the Fiscal and Policy Note, we firmly believe that the long-term benefits of investing in education for incarcerated individuals far outweigh the associated costs. Education has proven to be a transformative force, reducing recidivism rates and creating a positive impact on communities.

For the foregoing reasons, we respectfully request a FAVORABLE report for SB620/HB92. If needed, we are available to provide additional information or answer any questions to facilitate the passage of this important legislation.