

## House Bill 209

Date: March 7, 2024  
Committee: House Judiciary Committee  
Bill Title: Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission  
Re: **Letter of Support with Amendment**

---

**The Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) supports the goals of HB 209 and respectfully requests an amendment clarifying that the Commission established by the bill replaces the current Correctional Education Council (CEC).**

HB 209 would establish the *Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission*, whose purpose would be to develop education-focused, data-driven policy recommendations to improve programming for those involved with the criminal or juvenile justice systems and identify best practices to reduce recidivism.

MDL, in partnership with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, oversees the (very similar) statutorily mandated *Correctional Education Council (CEC)*. The scope of the Commission established by HB 209 would be broader than the current mission of the CEC, and would be tasked with providing critical recommendations on best practices for services to both incarcerated adults and juveniles. **The Department welcomes this initiative and requests an amendment to replace the current CEC with the Commission established by HB 209 to eliminate duplicative efforts and ensure there is one entity tasked with evaluating Correctional Education in Maryland.**

The Department supports expanding efforts to meaningfully engage and support incarcerated individuals and returning citizens. The *Commission* established by this legislation will frame recommendations that connect justice-involved individuals to stable, family-supporting careers that fulfill Governor Moore’s promises to both “Make Maryland Safer” and “Leave No One Behind.” **This will be more efficiently accomplished with ONE entity working towards these goals.**

MDL respectfully requests that the Committee consider our amendments and issue a favorable report on HB 209.