

HB 877 Written Testimony on Progress of the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission

The Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission was established through the passage of SB 623 in 2024. The purpose of the Commission is to study the adult correctional education programs in Maryland prisons and recommend improvements to the delivery system of those programs.

The Commission has met three times, with one meeting canceled due to the weather. During these meetings, the Commission, according to the legislation, approved an advisory stakeholder group to do the day-to-day research for the Commission in three areas of educational programming: adult basic education, high school completion, and special education; higher education; and career technology and workforce development.

The advisory stakeholder group and subsequent subcommittees have met many times to discuss data requests from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Department of Labor. They have begun to prioritize issues and data gaps.

The Commission is looking forward to conducting visits to five prisons and hosting public forums in all geographic areas of the state in the coming months.

The Commission and stakeholders meetings have been positive and productive. We expect to turn in a final report as recommended by October 1 of this year, if this bill passes.

We are happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen Steurer
Chair
Prison Education Delivery Reform
Commission