

2025-02-18 HB 877 - Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Adam Spangler

Position: FAV

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Attorney General

February 18, 2025

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee

FROM: Adam Spangler
Legislative Aide, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 877 - Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission - Reporting
and Sunset Extension– **Support**

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) urges the Committee to favorably report on **House Bill 877**. This bill extends the termination date of the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission by three years from (June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2029). The bill also extends by three years the deadlines by which the commission must submit (1) an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly (from June 1, 2025, to June 1, 2028) and (2) a final report of its findings and recommendations (from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2029). The OAG values its membership on this Task Force and is committed to the importance of producing high-quality work.

As mandated by the passage of House Bill 209/Chapter 945 of 2024, the Commission must among other things: (1) convene an advisory stakeholder group, as specified; (2) work with the advisory stakeholder group, including conducting roundtable discussion forums seeking public input in all geographic regions of the State; (3) develop an education-focused statewide framework of policies to invest in strategies to increase public safety and reduce recidivism of adult offenders, using a data-driven approach.

By extending the deadlines for the Commission, more time will be available to ensure that the Commission is able to carry out its mandated duties and that a quality report is prepared for the General Assembly.

For the above reasons, the Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on **House Bill 877**.

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us.

cc: The Honorable Delegate Marlon Amprey
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

[2025 - 02.18] HB877 Prison Education Delivery Ref

Uploaded by: Marlon Amprey

Position: FAV

MARLON AMPREY
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Chairman Clippinger
Vice Chair Bartlett
Maryland House Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
101 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony of Delegate Marlon Amprey in Support of House Bill 877 Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission – Reporting and Sunset Extension

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Committee members,

HB877 is being introduced to convert the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission into a semi-permanent commission and for it to provide annual reports. This body is dedicated to uncovering the root causes of recidivism and identifying meaningful solutions to break the cycle of incarceration in Maryland.

Our state continues to grapple with persistently high rates of recidivism, a challenge that cannot be addressed without a deeper, research-driven understanding of why individuals reoffend. The incredible work of this commission is not just about expanding educational access for incarcerated individuals—it is about investigating the systemic failures that contribute to reincarceration and identifying solutions that can disrupt that cycle.

The Commission was established to examine the gaps in our correctional education system and develop strategic solutions that empower incarcerated individuals with the knowledge and skills to build productive futures. Their work is essential—but their mission is far from complete. By extending the commission's timeline, HB 0877 ensures that their recommendations are fully developed, evidence-based, and capable of driving tangible change—ultimately providing a stronger foundation for improving educational resources within our prison system to break the cycle of incarceration, reduce repeat offenses, and improve public safety.

As lawmakers, we must continue to champion solutions that give justice-involved individuals a real opportunity to rebuild their lives. Supporting this commission means investing research-driven strategies that create lasting change—equipping people with the tools they need to reintegrate, contribute to the workforce, and reunite with their families. Today, you have the chance to help break cycles of incarceration and build pathways to opportunity for countless individuals across Maryland.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on HB877.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlon Amprey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Delegate Marlon Amprey
40th Legislative District of Maryland

HB 877 Written Testimony 2_14.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephen Steurer

Position: INFO

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