
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1340

TO: Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
FROM: Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor)
DATE: March 5, 2026
BILL: State Government - Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission - Establishment

MD LABOR POSITION: INFORMATIONAL

HB1340 would make the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission (PEDR), currently operating as a time-limited Commission authorized by [Chapter 945 of 2024](#), a permanent, independent unit of State government.

The Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor)'s Office of Correctional Education (OCE) provides educational services in Maryland's prisons. Specifically, OCE provides basic academic (including English language classes and GED preparation), occupational, transitional, library, and Special Education programming for Incarcerated Individuals (IIs) to prepare them for successful employment and a positive reentry upon release. As a result, MD Labor has regularly engaged with the PEDR in its current form and would be subject to any recommendations made by a permanent PEDR as outlined under this bill.

The establishment of the PEDR as a permanent unit of State government would be a duplication of currently existing structures governing education in Maryland's prisons.

Correctional education programming is already subject to oversight by the statutorily mandated (MD Code, Labor and Employment, [§11-901](#)) [Correctional Education Council \(CEC\)](#). This council, co-chaired and staffed by MD Labor and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), regularly meets to advise both agencies on many aspects of correctional education.

Specifically, the CEC must, among other items: 1) develop and recommend correctional educational and workforce training programs, 2) adopt regulations for implementing correctional education and workforce programs, 3) advocate and promote interest in correctional education and workforce programs, 4) ensure quality correctional education and workforce programs are available to incarcerated individuals, 5) review correctional educational and workforce training programs, and 6) recommend and advocate for improvements to correctional education and workforce programs. **Many of these activities directly overlap with the requirements of the PEDR.**

Given the similarity of the PEDR and CEC, **MD Labor respectfully requests that the Committee include an amendment eliminating the CEC** to prevent two duplicative governmental boards from overseeing correctional education.

Additionally, MD Labor notes that the PEDR, which is tasked with researching and making recommendations for the "best practices" in correctional education, has not yet issued their final report, which is due to the Maryland General Assembly on January 1, 2029.



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MD Labor welcomes discussions about how to strengthen the delivery of correctional education services and respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as they evaluate HB1340. For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti at Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov.