

ANTONIO HAYES
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Legislative District 40



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Bill: Senate Bill 815

Title: *Correctional Services - Maryland Correctional Enterprises - Report*

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Sponsor: Senator Antonio Hayes

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

For the record, I am Senator Antonio Hayes, and I am here to present **Senate Bill 815**. This legislation is a data-driven initiative designed to modernize Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) and ensure it is effectively fulfilling its mission to prepare incarcerated individuals for successful reentry into society.

Maryland Correctional Enterprises provides critical job training and work experience for inmates. However, to maximize the effectiveness of these programs, we must ensure they are aligned with current best practices and labor market demands. The goal of SB 815 is to identify innovative strategies that can turn MCE into a more powerful engine for reducing recidivism.

SB 815 requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to collaborate with a Maryland institution of higher education to conduct a comprehensive study.

The bill directs the Department to examine correctional industry programs in four specific states: **Maine, Ohio, Kansas, and California**. By analyzing the models used in these diverse jurisdictions, we can identify successful strategies that could be adapted here in Maryland.

Based on this comparative analysis, the Department and its academic partner will be required to make concrete recommendations on how to improve Maryland Correctional Enterprises to achieve better reentry outcomes.

To ensure accountability and timely progress:

- An **interim report** will be due to the Governor and General Assembly by **December 1, 2026**.

- A **final report** with findings and recommendations will be submitted by **December 1, 2027**.

We cannot improve what we do not measure or benchmark. This bill allows us to look outside our own walls, learn from other states, and bring the best ideas back to Maryland to help returning citizens secure employment and avoid returning to the justice system.

The Act will take effect on July 1, 2026, and will sunset after the final report is submitted at the end of 2027.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 815.

Position: Favorable