



## Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

### Office of Government & Legislative Affairs

45 Calvert Street, Suite 7A, Annapolis, MD 21401  
(443) 240-8696 • [www.dpscs.maryland.gov](http://www.dpscs.maryland.gov)

STATE OF MARYLAND

WES MOORE  
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER  
LT. GOVERNOR

CAROLYN J. SCRUGGS  
ACTING SECRETARY

OLUWATOYIN BAKARE  
ACTING  
DEPUTY SECRETARY  
ADMINISTRATION

DAVID GREENE  
DEPUTY SECRETARY  
OPERATIONS

ANGELINA GUARINO  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
DATA, POLICY AND GRANTS

RENARD BROOKS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
PROGRAMS, TREATMENT AND  
REENTRY SERVICES

JASON DAVIDSON  
DIRECTOR

**BILL: SENATE BILL 815**

**POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

**EXPLANATION:** This bill requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to partner with an institution of higher education for the purpose of providing a comprehensive report on prison industry programs in Maine, Ohio, Kansas and California; and make recommendations on ways to improve Maryland Correctional Enterprises and successful reentry programs.

#### **COMMENTS:**

- Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) provides structured programming for participants by improving interpersonal skills and employability upon release, enhancing safety and security by reducing prison idleness, and producing quality goods and services while remaining a financially self-supporting State agency.
- Programming focuses on enhancing the cognitive skills of participants and affords them the opportunity to learn a trade. More importantly, participants in the program learn the value of teamwork, conflict resolution, time management, adaptability, organization, and many other life skills to help them thrive in both their personal and professional lives.
- MCE encourages education, which is essential for successful reentry. To be eligible for MCE programming, an incarcerated individual must have a high school diploma and be infraction-free. In FY 2025, 1,074 incarcerated individuals participated in an MCE program.
- The MCE CARES (Continuing allocation of Reentry Services) Program provides additional courses and resources to the program participants who are approaching their release dates. The CARES program not only expands on the hard and soft skills that MCE provides, but integrates classes focused on additional skills aimed at providing additional tools, encouraging the motivation for a positive and successful reentry journey.
- Since FY 2024, 1,362 certificates were issued through the Department of Labor and MCE's Skills Training Program.

- MCE continues to be a leader in federal Prison Industry Enhancement Programs (PIECP). This program places offenders in realistic work environments. Currently, the program is available in the MCE Metal Plant. The company that partners with MCE to offer the PIECP program at the Metal Plant has also hired multiple returning citizens who received their training and worked within the PIECP program. MCE continues to pursue other PIECP partners within the community to expand offerings to other locations.
- The required MCE Workgroup, convened in 2024, concluded that participants are overwhelmingly positive about, and highly satisfied, with the programming and reentry services delivered through MCE. The Workgroup provided its findings and recommendations in a final report submitted to the Budget Committees and the House Government and Operations Committee.
- Regarding the comprehensive study mandated by SB 815, MCE remains steadfastly committed to continuous improvement and growth. MCE actively monitors evolving best practices from other state models and is expanding its training initiatives and business units to increase capacity and positively impact as many lives as possible.

**CONCLUSION:** For these reasons, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee consider the information as it deliberates on Senate Bill 815.