

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



YAAKOV "JAKE" WEISSMANN
Acting Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

TITLE: HB194 Incarcerated Job Training Act

DATE: March 26 2026

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings Committee

POSITION: Letter of Information

SUMMARY OF BILL: House Bill 194 establishes a three-year Incarcerated Individual Apprenticeship Pilot Program within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), in consultation with the Department of Labor, to provide incarcerated individuals at the Baltimore City Correctional Center the opportunity to serve as paid apprentices with state, local, or private employers. The program sunsets September 30, 2029.

EXPLANATION: DBM does not oppose the goals of this legislation but raises a few implementation questions that may warrant attention before the pilot launches.

To the extent the pilot places participants with state agencies, there may be conflicts with existing employment protocols and collective bargaining agreements that would need to be resolved prior to implementation. DBM recommends that DPSCS assess these issues during program development.

DBM also notes that the Division of Correction remains responsible for participant guarding, transport, and care. Agencies absorbing participants may face unbudgeted operational costs. Given projected general fund deficits in FY 2027 and beyond, DBM recommends that any future expansion be contingent on a cost assessment included in the required 2029 report.

**For additional information, contact Dana Phillips at
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