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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Ways and Means Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Good afternoon, Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and members of the Ways and Means Committee. For the record, I am Delegate Cheryl Pasteur. I am here to present HB438, Adult Prison School Board Model Development Committee. This bill is the result of the recommendation from the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission formed under SB 623 in 2024, tasked with developing a statewide framework to enhance educational, vocational, and career training for incarcerated individuals to reduce recidivism; the bill extended the commission's reporting of the final copy to 2029 via HB 877. The purpose of the data driven evidence based recommendations for primary, secondary, and postsecondary education in correctional facilities is to increase public safety and reduce recidivism.

The purpose of HB438 is to establish a committee to form a model for an Adult Prison School Board. On or before June 1, 2027, the Committee shall submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission with the final report being submitted on or before June 1, 2028. The Committee shall develop a comprehensive plan for a school board system to oversee correctional education for individuals subject to the criminal and juvenile justice systems. The bill, also, includes a fiscal mapping project for correctional education that examines the needs and options necessary to sustain a school board system to include internal and external funding sources for all necessary salaries and costs associated with developing and implementing the school board system.

I respectfully request a favorable vote that will form the committee to research and create a prison school board model.

Delegate Cheryl Pasteur