

SENATE BILL 403

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1lr1763

By: **Senator Carter**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Institutions of Higher Education – Incarcerated and Formerly**
3 **Incarcerated Individuals – Academic and Employment Opportunities**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission, in consultation
5 with public institutions of higher education and Maryland Correctional Enterprises,
6 to establish a certain process to increase access to certain academic and employment
7 opportunities at public institutions of higher education for certain incarcerated and
8 formerly incarcerated individuals; specifying certain requirements for the process;
9 and generally relating to public institutions of higher education and opportunities
10 for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Education
13 Section 11–409
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Education**

19 **11–409.**

20 **(A) THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF**
21 **HIGHER EDUCATION AND MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES, SHALL**
22 **ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND OUTREACH TO**
23 **INCARCERATED AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS TO INCREASE THE**
24 **INDIVIDUALS’ ACCESS TO ADMISSIONS AND EMPLOYMENT AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**
25 **OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) THE PROCESS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION**
2 **SHALL:**

3 **(1) APPLY ONLY TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OR WERE EMPLOYED BY**
4 **MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES DURING THE INDIVIDUAL'S PERIOD OF**
5 **INCARCERATION;**

6 **(2) PROVIDE INFORMATION AND OUTREACH TO FORMERLY**
7 **INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS REGARDING OPPORTUNITIES TO PURSUE HIGHER**
8 **EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT AT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION;**
9 **AND**

10 **(3) PROVIDE INFORMATION AND OUTREACH TO INCARCERATED**
11 **INDIVIDUALS REGARDING OPPORTUNITIES TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION AND**
12 **EMPLOYMENT AT A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AFTER RELEASE**
13 **FROM INCARCERATION.**

14 **(C) THE PROCESS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION**
15 **SHALL INCLUDE:**

16 **(1) TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, GRANTING PREFERENCE TO**
17 **FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN ADMISSIONS AND EMPLOYMENT**
18 **APPLICATIONS;**

19 **(2) PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO FORMERLY INCARCERATED**
20 **INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR ADMISSION OR**
21 **EMPLOYMENT; AND**

22 **(3) PROVIDING INFORMATION REGARDING THE MARYLAND**
23 **TRANSFER ADVANTAGE PROGRAM TO INCARCERATED AND FORMERLY**
24 **INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2021.