

Chapter 943

(Senate Bill 620)

AN ACT concerning

Resources and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to assist incarcerated individuals in accessing certain federal education grants; requiring the ~~Maryland Department of Labor~~ to set certain goals relating to incarcerated individuals in certain education programs, establish certain tracking systems relating to incarcerated individuals in certain education programs, and forward certain data to the Maryland Higher Education Commission; ~~authorizing~~ requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to assist the ~~Maryland Department of Labor~~ in establishing certain tracking systems; and generally relating to resources and education for incarcerated individuals.

BY adding to

Article – Correctional Services

Section 2-701 and 2-702 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 7. ~~Incarcerated Individual Access to~~ Federal Pell Grants Access and Postsecondary Education Program Tracking Systems”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2017 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article – Labor and Employment~~

~~Section 11-903.1~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2016 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)~~

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

Article – Correctional Services

SUBTITLE 7. ~~INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL ACCESS TO~~ FEDERAL PELL GRANTS ACCESS AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAM TRACKING SYSTEMS.

2-701.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ASSIST INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN ACCESSING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

(B) IN ORDER TO ASSIST INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN ACCESSING FEDERAL PELL GRANTS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING:

- (1) ~~THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE~~ ALL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND INSTITUTIONS;
- (2) MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY;
- (3) ~~BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY;~~
- (4) ~~THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS;~~
- (5) ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY COLLEGE;
- (6) (4) HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE;
- (7) (5) WOR-WIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE; AND
- (8) (6) GOUCHER COLLEGE.

2-702.

~~THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE.~~

~~Article Labor and Employment~~

~~11-903.1.~~

(A) ~~IN THIS SECTION, "INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1-101 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.~~

(B) (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY WITH RESPECT TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN A CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION IN THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES.

(C) (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) SET GOALS FOR THE NUMBER OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS;

(2) ESTABLISH A TRACKING SYSTEM FOR THE NUMBER OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS;

(3) ESTABLISH A TRACKING SYSTEM FOR THE PROGRESS OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE CREDITS THAT EACH INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL EARNS IN AN APPROVED COLLEGE PROGRAM; AND

(4) FORWARD, AT AN AGREED-ON INTERVAL, THE TRACKING DATA FOR THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE CREDITS THAT EACH INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL EARNS IN AN APPROVED COLLEGE PROGRAM TO THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION.

~~(D)~~ (C) THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION ~~MAY~~ SHALL ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN CREATING THE TRACKING SYSTEMS UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(C)~~ (B) OF THIS SECTION.

~~(E)~~ (D) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION IN AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO USE FOR MARKETING FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS AND FOR THE TRACKING SYSTEMS FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

~~(F)~~ (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.