

HOUSE BILL 209

E5, E4, F5

(PRE-FILED)

4lr1292
CF SB 623

By: ~~Delegate Amprey~~ **Delegates Amprey, Conaway, Kaufman, Williams, Embry, Phillips, and Taylor**

Requested: October 31, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission to
4 develop recommendations relating to education and its impact on the criminal justice
5 system; and generally relating to the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission.

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That:

8 (a) There is a Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission.

9 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

10 (1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
11 of the Senate;

12 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
13 the House;

14 (3) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
15 Secretary's designee;

16 (4) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



- 1 (5) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;
- 2 (6) the Public Defender of Maryland, or the Public Defender's designee;
- 3 (7) a representative of the Maryland Judiciary, appointed by the Chief
4 Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland;
- 5 (8) the Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or the
6 Secretary's designee;
- 7 (9) the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee;
- 8 (10) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
9 designee; and
- 10 (11) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 11 (i) a national expert on correctional education issues;
- 12 (ii) a representative of a foundation with expertise in correctional
13 education systems;
- 14 (iii) a representative of local law enforcement agencies;
- 15 (iv) a representative of the Maryland State's Attorney's Association;
- 16 (v) a representative of an adult prison services provider bureau;
- 17 (vi) a representative from a restorative justice organization;
- 18 (vii) a representative from the Goucher College Prison Education
19 Partnership;
- 20 (viii) a representative of Maryland Correctional Enterprises;
- 21 ~~(vii)~~ (ix) two individuals who are or were under the supervision of
22 the Division of Correction; and
- 23 ~~(viii)~~ (x) any other member with expertise relevant to the work of
24 the Commission.
- 25 (c) The Governor shall appoint the chair of the Commission.
- 26 (d) The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services shall
27 provide staff for the Commission.

1 (e) A member of the Commission may not receive compensation as a member of
2 the Commission.

3 (f) The Commission shall:

4 (1) convene an advisory stakeholder group that includes organizations
5 with experience in:

6 (i) criminal justice policy reform;

7 (ii) advocating for individuals with learning disabilities and those
8 from marginalized communities; ~~and~~

9 (iii) restorative justice; and

10 (iv) peer recovery and support services;

11 (2) work with the advisory stakeholder group, including conducting
12 roundtable discussion forums seeking public input in all geographic regions of the State;

13 (3) develop an education-focused statewide framework of policies to invest
14 in strategies to increase public safety and reduce recidivism of adult offenders, using a
15 data-driven approach;

16 (4) research best practices for the primary, secondary, postsecondary, and
17 career or vocational education of those who are subject to the criminal and juvenile justice
18 systems;

19 (5) identify measures to mitigate risk factors that contribute to adult
20 contact with the criminal justice system, with a focus on education; ~~and~~

21 (6) evaluate current workforce programs in which incarcerated individuals
22 participate and the programs' effectiveness in training for employment opportunities that
23 result in living wages; and

24 ~~(6)~~ (7) request technical assistance from:

25 (i) the Abell Foundation;

26 (ii) the Annie E. Casey Foundation;

27 (iii) the Council of State Governments;

28 (iv) the Vera Institute of Justice;

29 (v) the Coalition on Adult Basic Education;

1 (vi) the RAND Corporation; and

2 (vii) other organizations similar to the organizations under items (i)
3 through (vi) of this item.

4 (g) (1) On or before June 1, 2025, the Commission shall submit an interim
5 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
6 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

7 (2) On or before January 1, 2026, the Commission shall submit a final
8 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
9 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
11 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June
12 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
13 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.