



## Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

### Maryland Correctional Enterprises

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STATE OF MARYLAND

WES MOORE  
GOVERNOR

**BILL:** Senate Bill 486 - Correctional Services – Maryland Correctional Enterprises Management Council – Report

ARUNA MILLER  
LT. GOVERNOR

**DATE:** February 14, 2024

CAROLYN J. SCRUGGS  
SECRETARY

### **LETTER OF INFORMATION:**

ANTHONY A. GASKINS  
CHIEF OF STAFF

The Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) Management Council was established under Title 3, Subtitle 5 of the Correctional Services Article in order to enhance and promote the quality and quantity of vocational training programs for incarcerated individuals. As MCE is a mission based agency focused on the rehabilitation of incarcerated persons, the Management Council duties focus on the expansion of MCE's multifaceted vision. The Council is composed of volunteers, union members, State appointees, non-profit members and private sector representatives that are in support of providing life and job skills to a marginalized population. Members do not receive compensation for their participation, but act as subject matter experts for the agencies and organizations that they represent.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
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After consulting with the private sector representatives on the Council, MCE is in agreement that Senate Bill 486 diverts the duties of the Council away from the population it is intended to serve. Any research conducted with the intent to promote purchasing from private entities rather than MCE would contradict the mandated mission to maintain a self-supporting status while providing training and services to as many incarcerated individuals across the State as possible. It is evident that purchases from the private sector would decrease State revenues, resulting in the dissolution of vital programming to an underserved population. The loss of this self-funded programming would also result in increased supervision and programming costs for DPSCS. The Council is already tasked with providing a yearly review on private sector impact. Based on 2021 data provided by the National Association of Manufacturers, manufacturing output in Maryland totaled \$26.4 billion dollars – MCE accounted for only 0.19% of that manufacturing total. According to the US Chamber of Commerce, 35% of durable goods manufacturing jobs remain unfilled, supporting the value and need of job training programs so that returning citizens are able to find viable careers post-release.

In addition, this bill duplicates functions already being performed by the Pricing and Selection Committee (PSC) as established in Section 14-106 of the State Finance and Procurement Law. By law, this committee is already responsible for reviewing and comparing MCE products and services in relation to the average prevailing market prices. The research reviewed and approved by the PSC includes market comparable products and related studies utilizing the consumer price index. Adding this function to the Council would be duplicative and deprioritize the mission to provide meaningful training opportunities to incarcerated individuals.