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To: Members of the House Judiciary Committee
From: Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section,
Maryland State Bar Association
Subject: **HB 209 - Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission**
Date: March 6, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **Supports House Bill 209 - Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission.**

This bill will create a broadly based commission and related stakeholder bodies that will develop an education-focused policy to increase public safety and reduce recidivism on the part of criminal offenders. This will include an advisory stakeholder group, conducting meetings across the state and looking at evidence-based educational approaches that reduce recidivism and increase public safety.

There is considerable research and direct evidence that education can play a big role in helping incarcerated individuals and those involved with the criminal justice system overcome the reasons they have engaged or may engage in criminal activity and become stable and fully functioning members of society. The establishment of the kind of broadly based commission as envisioned in the bill will focus attention on best practices and what can be realistically done and help point the way towards positive change for individuals involved in the system and for public safety.

For the reasons stated, we **Support HB 209 Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission.**

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section's Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at doyleniemann@gmail.com. Should you have other questions, please contact The MSBA's Legislative Office at (410) 387-5606.

