

General Assembly

February Session, 2022

## Substitute Bill No. 5128

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## AN ACT CONCERNING THE TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED TO EVALUATE WHETHER TO ESTABLISH A POST-SECONDARY PRISON EDUCATION OFFICE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 2 of public act 21-132 is repealed and the following
 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established a task force to study the costs and benefits of 4 establishing a Postsecondary Prison Education Program Office within 5 the Department of Correction. Such study shall include, but need not be 6 limited to, an examination of (1) any existing office dedicated to 7 postsecondary prison education within the state and, if such office 8 exists, such office's responsibilities, (2) the process and standards for 9 approving education programs at correctional facilities, (3) the ability 10 for virtual education programs at correctional facilities, (4) the 11 administrative process that the department uses for students who 12 submit complaints about the education programs, (5) the process and 13 standards that the department uses to approve curriculum and course 14 materials for students in correctional facilities, (6) whether the 15 department participates in the state's education, workforce and 16 employment longitudinal data system, (7) the space available in 17 correctional facilities to provide prison education programming, (8) the 18 demand for space in correctional facilities for prison education 19 programming, and (9) the strategies utilized by other state or county

20 21 22	correctional agencies to increase the number of individuals who will have access to prison education programs using federal Pell grant awards.
23	(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
24 25	(1) [Three] <u>Two</u> appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
26 27	(2) [Three] <u>Two</u> appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
28 29	(3) [Two] <u>One</u> appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;
30	(4) [Two] <u>One</u> appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
31 32	(5) [Two] <u>One</u> appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;
33	(6) [Two] <u>One</u> appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
34 35	(7) The undersecretary for criminal justice at the Office of Policy and Management, or the undersecretary's designee; and
36	(8) The Commissioner of Correction, or the commissioner's designee.
37 38 39	(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.
40	(d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
41 42	than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.
43 44 45	(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
46	the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty

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47 days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
education shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than January 1, [2022] <u>2023</u>, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and the judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, [2022] <u>2023</u>, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	from passage	PA 21-132, Sec. 2

## Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In the introductory language of Section 1, the first "(Effective from passage)" was deleted for consistency.

HED Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

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