

SENATE BILL 623

E5, E4, F5

4lr3134
CF HB 209

By: **Senator Carter**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

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;

17 (5) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

18 (6) the Public Defender of Maryland, or the Public Defender's designee;

19 (7) a representative of the Maryland Judiciary, appointed by the Chief
20 Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (8) the Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, or the
2 Secretary's designee;

3 (9) the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee;

4 (10) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
5 designee; and

6 (11) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

7 (i) a national expert on correctional education issues;

8 (ii) a representative of a foundation with expertise in correctional
9 education systems;

10 (iii) a representative of local law enforcement agencies;

11 (iv) a representative of the Maryland State's Attorney's Association;

12 (v) a representative of an adult prison services provider bureau;

13 (vi) a representative from a restorative justice organization;

14 (vii) two individuals who are or were under the supervision of the
15 Division of Correction; and

16 (viii) any other member with expertise relevant to the work of the
17 Commission.

18 (c) The Governor shall appoint the chair of the Commission.

19 (d) The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services shall
20 provide staff for the Commission.

21 (e) A member of the Commission may not receive compensation as a member of
22 the Commission.

23 (f) The Commission shall:

24 (1) convene an advisory stakeholder group that includes organizations
25 with experience in:

26 (i) criminal justice policy reform;

27 (ii) advocating for individuals with learning disabilities and those
28 from marginalized communities; and

1 (iii) restorative justice;

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

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

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

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

12 (6) request technical assistance from:

13 (i) the Abell Foundation;

14 (ii) the Annie E. Casey Foundation;

15 (iii) the Council of State Governments;

16 (iv) the Vera Institute of Justice;

17 (v) the Coalition on Adult Basic Education;

18 (vi) the RAND Corporation; and

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

21 (g) (1) On or before June 1, 2025, the Commission shall submit an interim
22 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
23 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

24 (2) On or before January 1, 2026, the Commission shall submit a final
25 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
26 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
28 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June
29 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
30 abrogated and of no further force and effect.