
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1649 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY RABB, KAZEEM, SANCHEZ, ABNEY, WAXMAN, HILL-EVANS,
A. BROWN, MADDEN, GUENST, KRAJEWSKI, KINSEY, SMITH-WADE-EL,
D. WILLIAMS, MAYES AND OTTEN, AUGUST 30, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, AUGUST 30, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in general administration, providing
3 for incarcerated people's benefit fund.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Chapter 11 of Title 61 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read:

8 SUBCHAPTER E

9 INCARCERATED PEOPLE'S BENEFIT FUND

10 Sec.

11 1181. Definitions.

12 1182. Incarcerated people's benefit fund.

13 § 1181. Definitions.

14 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter
15 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
16 context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 "Fund." An incarcerated people's benefit fund established by
18 a State or county correctional institution under section 1182

1 (relating to incarcerated people's benefit fund).

2 § 1182. Incarcerated people's benefit fund.

3 Each State or county correctional institution shall establish
4 an incarcerated people's benefit fund and a written policy
5 specifying the administration of the fund. The chief
6 administrator or the chief administrator's designee shall
7 oversee the fund. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
8 the written policy shall include the following requirements:

9 (1) The chief administrator or the chief administrator's
10 designee shall deposit money collected from the sale of
11 commissary goods, inmate labor, telephone services, Internet
12 services or any other funding source related to inmate
13 purchases or labor into the fund.

14 (2) Money in the fund shall be used solely for the
15 benefit, education and welfare of inmates confined at the
16 State or county correctional institution, including the
17 following:

18 (i) Providing indigent inmates with essential
19 clothing and transportation expenses prior to release.

20 (ii) Providing inmates with special, requested
21 educational resources, including specialty courses or
22 materials, that are not covered by the State or county
23 correctional institution or otherwise prohibited by State
24 law from being paid as part of the State or county
25 correctional institution's expenses.

26 (iii) Holiday decorations or other amenities that
27 benefit the rehabilitation of inmates.

28 (iv) Any other expenses that are specifically and
29 solely used for the benefit, education and welfare of
30 inmates.

1 (3) An independent third party shall audit the fund on
2 an annual basis and compile a report on each audit.

3 (4) The chief administrator or the chief administrator's
4 designee shall maintain a fiscal system that accounts for all
5 fund revenue and expenditures on an ongoing basis, including
6 the methods for collecting, safeguarding and disbursing money
7 from the fund.

8 (5) Money in the fund may not be used to pay for State
9 or county correctional institution expenses not specified
10 under paragraph (2).

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.