



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 238

HOUSE BILL NO. 1303

By Representatives Baum, Sherrell, Helton, White, Dixie, Potts, Powell, Shaw, Camper, Miller, Parkinson, Hardaway, Clemmons, Love, Smith, Hodges, Towns, Mitchell, Hakeem, Sparks, Hawk

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1061

By Senators Dickerson, Robinson, Gardenhire, Haile, Jackson, Reeves, Yarbro, Akbari, Bowling, Gilmore, Gresham, Kyle, Roberts, Stevens, Yager

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 41; Title 49 and Title 50, relative to higher education for incarcerated individuals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The department of correction shall, in partnership with the Tennessee higher education commission and the board of regents, develop and submit to the general assembly an annual report that details the higher education opportunities available to eligible incarcerated individuals in this state.

(b) The report must include:

(1) The number of eligible incarcerated individuals housed at each correctional facility who are participating in higher education opportunities;

(2) The higher education opportunities available at each correctional facility, including the name of each institution of higher education providing higher education opportunities, along with a description of each course, field of study, or program provided by the institution of higher education;

(3) The number of degrees annually conferred to eligible incarcerated individuals housed in a correctional facility, including the name of each institution of higher education conferring the degree;

(4) Recommendations from the commissioner of correction, made in partnership with the executive director of the Tennessee higher education commission and the chancellor of the board of regents, to increase the higher education opportunities available to eligible incarcerated individuals housed in correctional facilities in this state; and

(5) A plan to equip at least ten percent (10%) of eligible incarcerated individuals housed in correctional facilities in this state with a degree, diploma, or certificate by the year 2025 by increasing the availability of, and participation in, higher education opportunities provided by institutions of higher education.

(c) The department shall transmit the report required under this section to the chairs of the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives, and to the chairs of the judiciary committees of the senate and the house of representatives, no later than January 1 of each year.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-202(d)(4), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

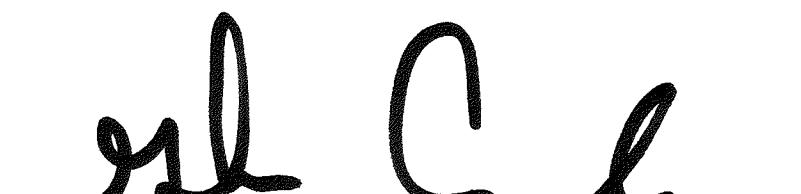
Establishing eligible incarcerated individuals housed in correctional facilities in this state as a focus population in order to increase the degree attainment of such individuals;

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SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 15, 2019

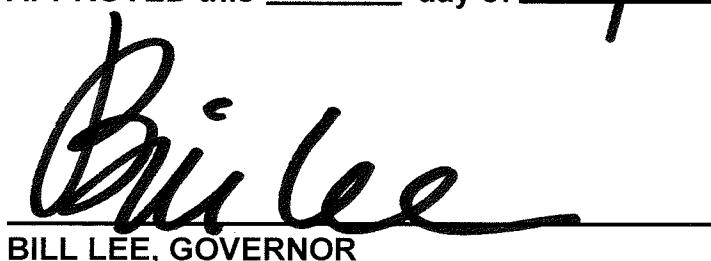


GLEN CASADA, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Randy McNally
RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 30th day of April 2019



BILL LEE
BILL LEE, GOVERNOR