

HOUSE BILL 1022

K3, E4

3lr2599

By: **Delegates Young, Bartlett, Charles, Crutchfield, Davis, and Phillips**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Judiciary and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Labor and Employment – Postconviction Work Readiness Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Postconviction Work Readiness Program in the
4 Maryland Department of Labor for the purpose of assisting individuals who have
5 been convicted of a felony with obtaining and retaining employment; and generally
6 relating to the Postconviction Work Readiness Program.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Labor and Employment

9 Section 11–906.1

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Labor and Employment**

15 **11–906.1.**

16 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE POSTCONVICTION WORK**
17 **READINESS PROGRAM.**

18 **(B) (1) THERE IS A POSTCONVICTION WORK READINESS PROGRAM IN**
19 **THE DEPARTMENT.**

20 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WHO**
21 **HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY WITH OBTAINING AND RETAINING**
22 **EMPLOYMENT.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH THE PROGRAM IN AT LEAST FOUR COUNTIES.

(2) PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM MUST HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY.

(D) THE PROGRAM SHALL:

(1) ENCOURAGE AND RECRUIT EMPLOYERS TO HIRE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM;

(2) PROVIDE JOB TRAINING SERVICES AND JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM; AND

(3) IMPLEMENT A DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO:

(I) TRACK PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM; AND

(II) GATHER AND SHARE INFORMATION ON THE OUTCOMES OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM.

(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING:

(1) CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF:

(I) PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS;

(II) PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS; AND

(III) EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROVIDERS;

(2) LIMITS ON THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS;

(3) THE AMOUNT OF THE STIPEND FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS;

AND

(4) PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR THE PROGRAM.

(F) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2025, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST \$4,000,000 FOR THE PROGRAM.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1, 2025,
2 the Department shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the
3 State Government Article, on the effectiveness of the Postconviction Work Readiness
4 Program established under § 11–906.1 of the Labor and Employment Article, as enacted by
5 Section 1 of this Act, in assisting individuals who have been convicted of a felony in
6 obtaining and retaining employment.

7 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2023.