

Chapter 98

(Senate Bill 86)

AN ACT concerning

Correctional Education – Changes to Mandatory Education Requirements

FOR the purpose of increasing the number of required days for a certain mandatory education program for correctional institutions in the Division of Correction; and generally relating to correctional education.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Labor and Employment
Section 11–902(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Labor and Employment
Section 11–902(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – Labor and Employment

11–902.

(a) (1) The Correctional Education Council shall develop and recommend an educational and workforce training program for each correctional institution in the Division of Correction.

(2) The programs shall meet the special needs and circumstances of the inmates in each correctional institution.

(3) If the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board makes a funding recommendation under § 9–3207(b)(6) of the State Government Article, a post–secondary education and workforce training program, in accordance with the funding recommendation, shall provide inmates with the requisite training, certifications, and experience to obtain careers in in–demand job sectors.

(b) (1) The Council shall adopt regulations for all correctional institutions in the Division of Correction for the implementation of a mandatory education program for all inmates who fail to attain a minimum educational standard as set forth in this subsection.

(2) The regulations adopted by the Council shall:

(i) require that the educational standard shall be the attainment of a General Educational Development (GED) diploma or a verified high school diploma;

(ii) apply only to any inmate who:

1. was received by the Division of Correction after July 1, 1987;

2. has 18 months or more remaining to be served before a mandatory supervision release date;

3. is not exempted due to a medical, developmental, or learning disability; and

4. does not possess a General Educational Development (GED) diploma or a verified high school diploma; and

(iii) require any inmate who is not exempted under item (ii)3 of this paragraph to participate in:

1. the mandatory education program for at least ~~[120]~~ **240** calendar days; or

2. a workforce skills training program.

(3) The Division of Correction shall report to the Parole Commission the academic progress of an inmate in the mandatory education program.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor, April 13, 2021.