
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5128

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED TO EVALUATE WHETHER TO ESTABLISH A POST-SECONDARY PRISON EDUCATION OFFICE.

SUMMARY

This bill reduces, from 16 to 10, the membership of the task force to study the costs and benefits of establishing a Postsecondary Prison Education Program Office. It does so by reducing each legislative appointment by one.

By law, the task force must study at least nine topics, including space demands for prison education programming in correctional facilities; processes and standards for approving these programs, their curricula, and course materials; and other states' and counties' strategies for increasing the number of people who can access these programs using federal Pell grants (PA 21-132, § 2).

Table 1 outlines the membership reduction for each appointing authority.

Table 1: Task Force Membership Reduction Under the Bill

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Number of Appointees Under PA 21-132</i>	<i>Number of Appointees Under the Bill</i>
House speaker	Three	Two
Senate president pro tempore	Three	Two
House majority leader	Two	One
Senate majority leader	Two	One
House minority leader	Two	One
Senate minority leader	Two	One
N/A	Office of Policy and Management undersecretary for criminal justice or her designee	
N/A	Department of Correction commissioner or his designee	

By law and unchanged by the bill, appointed members may be legislators, and all initial appointments must be made within 30 days after the bill's effective date.

The bill also extends the deadline by which the task force must report its findings to the Higher Education and Judiciary committees by one year, from January 1, 2022, to January 1, 2023. Correspondingly, under the bill the task force must terminate on the later of the date it submits the final report or January 1, 2023, rather than 2022 as under current law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/03/2022)