



**New Copy**  
**House of Representatives**

General Assembly

**File No. 24**

February Session, 2022

Substitute House Bill No. 5128

*House of Representatives, March 16, 2022*

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. ELLIOTT of the 88th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 2 of public act 21-132 is repealed and the following  
2 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established a task force to study the costs and benefits of  
4 establishing a Postsecondary Prison Education Program Office within  
5 the Department of Correction. Such study shall include, but need not be  
6 limited to, an examination of (1) any existing office dedicated to  
7 postsecondary prison education within the state and, if such office  
8 exists, such office's responsibilities, (2) the process and standards for  
9 approving education programs at correctional facilities, (3) the ability  
10 for virtual education programs at correctional facilities, (4) the  
11 administrative process that the department uses for students who  
12 submit complaints about the education programs, (5) the process and

13 standards that the department uses to approve curriculum and course  
14 materials for students in correctional facilities, (6) whether the  
15 department participates in the state's education, workforce and  
16 employment longitudinal data system, (7) the space available in  
17 correctional facilities to provide prison education programming, (8) the  
18 demand for space in correctional facilities for prison education  
19 programming, and (9) the strategies utilized by other state or county  
20 correctional agencies to increase the number of individuals who will  
21 have access to prison education programs using federal Pell grant  
22 awards.

23 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

24 (1) [~~Three~~] Two appointed by the speaker of the House of  
25 Representatives;

26 (2) [~~Three~~] Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the  
27 Senate;

28 (3) [~~Two~~] One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
29 Representatives;

30 (4) [~~Two~~] One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

31 (5) [~~Two~~] One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
32 Representatives;

33 (6) [~~Two~~] One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

34 (7) The undersecretary for criminal justice at the Office of Policy and  
35 Management, or the undersecretary's designee; and

36 (8) The Commissioner of Correction, or the commissioner's designee.

37 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
38 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
39 of the General Assembly.

40 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later

41 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
42 be filled by the appointing authority.

43 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
44 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
45 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
46 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty  
47 days after the effective date of this section.

48 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
49 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
50 education shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

51 (g) Not later than January 1, [2022] 2023, the task force shall submit a  
52 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
53 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
54 relating to higher education and the judiciary, in accordance with the  
55 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall  
56 terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, [2022]  
57 2023, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In the introductory language of Section 1, the first "(Effective from passage)" was deleted for consistency.

**HED**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill extends the reporting date for the task force studying the costs and benefits of creating a Postsecondary Prison Education Program Office within the Department of Correction to January 1, 2023. The bill also changes the number of task force members. These changes have no fiscal impact.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

## 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**

<b><i>Appointing Authority</i></b>	<b><i>Number of Appointees Under PA 21-132</i></b>	<b><i>Number of Appointees Under the Bill</i></b>
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)