



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

**Raised Bill No. 5128**

LCO No. 1164



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:  
(HED)

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2 repealed the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
42 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall

43 be filled by the appointing authority.

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

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

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

To extend the reporting date for and revise the membership of the task force established to evaluate whether to establish a post-secondary prison education office.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*