



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

**Substitute Bill No. 5128**



**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 Section 2 of public act 21-132 is repealed and the following  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

