



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 123

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5127

House of Representatives, March 26, 2024

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. HADDAD of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE DELIVERY OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) The Criminal Justice Policy and
2 Planning Division within the Office of Policy and Management, in
3 consultation with the Department of Correction, shall conduct a needs
4 assessment of the facilities, materials and staffing required for the
5 delivery of postsecondary education programs in correctional facilities.
6 Such assessment shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a
7 solicitation of feedback from institutions of higher education that
8 provide postsecondary education programs in correctional facilities to
9 understand current needs, (2) an analysis of the policies of the
10 Department of Correction concerning postsecondary education of
11 incarcerated persons, (3) a determination of the level of unmet demand
12 for postsecondary education among incarcerated persons, (4) an
13 inventory of the (A) correctional facilities, including, but not limited to,

14 classrooms, multipurpose rooms, libraries and study rooms, (B) staffing,
 15 and (C) materials, including, but not limited to, education technology
 16 and Internet access, currently available for the delivery of
 17 postsecondary education, (5) recommendations for and a cost analysis
 18 of the improvement of such facilities, staffing and materials to meet the
 19 unmet demand for postsecondary education, (6) a survey of (A)
 20 students of postsecondary education programs in correctional facilities,
 21 (B) former students of such programs, in consultation with regional
 22 reentry programs, and (C) any group or person the division deems
 23 necessary, and (7) a listing of any other specific barriers to the effective
 24 delivery of postsecondary education programs to incarcerated persons.

25 (b) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Secretary of the Office of Policy
 26 and Management shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
 27 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
 28 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
 29 education and employment advancement regarding the needs
 30 assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	New section

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	143,800	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in consultation with the Department of Correction, to conduct a needs assessment of postsecondary education programs in correctional facilities and provide a report by January 1, 2025. This results in a one-time cost of \$143,800 to OPM in FY 25 for a Durational Project Manager to complete the assessment and report.

The Out Years

This cost is one-time in nature.



OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5127

AN ACT REQUIRING A NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE DELIVERY OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/07/2024)