



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5127**

February Session, 2024



**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.*