

SB 777 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/18/19

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and request referral to Education and then to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 6-0-1-0

Yeas: 6 - Bentz, Gelser, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher

Exc: 1 - Fagan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Addie Smith, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Prison Education to study existing prisoner education and training programs; barriers to access to such programs; and options and opportunities for expanding, updating, and improving such programs. Sunsets on December 31, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Referral to Senate Committee on Education

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The interim work group on reentry was formed to assess current barriers to the successful reentry of individuals into mainstream society after incarceration and to propose possible solutions. One barrier identified was the need for expanded educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals to help them better build their resumes, expand their knowledge and skills, and access jobs upon reentry.

Senate Bill 777 is the product of that work group. It creates a formal task force to study existing prisoner education and training programs; barriers to access to such programs; and options and opportunities for expanding, updating, and improving such programs.