

2022 -- S 2720

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Introduced By: Senators Mack, Anderson, Calkin, Mendes, Bell, Kallman, and DiMario

Date Introduced: March 17, 2022

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 42-56-22 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-56 entitled "Corrections  
2 Department" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **42-56-22. Labor by persons committed on mesne process or to answer criminal**  
4 **charge.**

5           (a) Every person who shall be committed to the adult correctional institutions to answer for  
6 any criminal offense, whether convicted or awaiting trial, or on mesne process in any qui tam or  
7 penal action, or on mesne process or execution in any civil action, may be permitted to labor in the  
8 discretion of the director, or his or her designee, for the state, and in that case may be paid ~~not more~~  
9 ~~than three dollars (\$3.00) a day for every day~~ in accordance with the minimum hourly wage set in  
10 § 28-12-3 for every day he or she shall labor with the express consent of the director, or his or her  
11 designee, of the department, to be credited to the prisoner's account by the assistant director of  
12 administration, or his or her designee, and to be disbursed to the prisoner in accordance with the  
13 rules and regulations of the institutions; provided, further, however, there shall be maintained on  
14 account at all times at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the earnings of each prisoner up to a  
15 maximum of one hundred dollars (\$100) for those persons serving a sentence of life imprisonment  
16 without parole under §§ 11-23-2, 12-19.2-1 et seq., and up to a maximum of one thousand dollars  
17 (\$1,000) for all other prisoners; those funds to be turned over to the prisoner at the time of his or  
18 her release from the institution, the funds being his or her property; the moneys to be paid to the  
19 prisoner by order of the assistant director of management services upon the general treasurer.

1           (b) Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the use of the funds in the account for  
2 the payment of any court fees and court costs required to be paid for the filing, prosecution, and  
3 defense of any action.

4           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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1           This act would increase the wage amount for working prisoners, committed to the adult  
2           correctional institution, from three dollars (\$3.00) a day to the minimum hourly wage amount for  
3           most workers currently set at twelve dollars and twenty-five cents (\$12.25) per hour.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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