

2023 -- S 0665

LC002354

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Introduced By: Senators Mack, Britto, Acosta, Euer, Kallman, McKenney, LaMountain,  
Tikoian, Lauria, and Bell

Date Introduced: March 07, 2023

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)~~ six dollars (\$6.00) a day for every day he or she shall labor with the  
10 express consent of the director, or his or her designee, of the department, to be credited to the  
11 prisoner's account by the assistant director of administration, or his or her designee, and to be  
12 disbursed to the prisoner in accordance with the rules and regulations of the institutions; provided,  
13 further, however, there shall be maintained on account at all times at least twenty-five percent  
14 (25%) of the earnings of each prisoner up to a maximum of one hundred dollars (\$100) for those  
15 persons serving a sentence of life imprisonment without parole under §§ 11-23-2, 12-19.2-1 et seq.,  
16 and up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for all other prisoners; those funds to be  
17 turned over to the prisoner at the time of his or her release from the institution, the funds being his  
18 or her property; the moneys to be paid to the prisoner by order of the assistant director of  
19 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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- 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 six dollars (\$6.00) a day.  
3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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