

2024 -- H 7034

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LC003845
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Morales, Slater, Felix, Cruz, Edwards, Potter,
O'Brien, DeSimone, and Biah

Date Introduced: January 05, 2024

Referred To: House Finance

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 the director's designee, for the state, and in that case may be paid not
9 more than ~~three dollars (\$3.00)~~ six dollars (\$6.00) a day for every day the person shall labor with
10 the express consent of the director, or the director's designee, of the department, to be credited to
11 the prisoner's account by the assistant director of administration, or the assistant director's
12 designee, and to be disbursed to the prisoner in accordance with the rules and regulations of the
13 institutions; provided, further, however, there shall be maintained on account at all times at least
14 twenty-five percent (25%) of the earnings of each prisoner up to a maximum of one hundred dollars
15 (\$100) for those persons serving a sentence of life imprisonment without parole under §§ 11-23-2,
16 12-19.2-1 et seq., and up to a maximum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for all other prisoners;
17 those funds to be turned over to the prisoner at the time of the prisoner's release from the institution,
18 the funds being the prisoner's property; the moneys to be paid to the prisoner by order of the
19 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

1 This act increases the hourly wages paid to prisoners, for work performed by prisoners,
2 with the consent of the director of corrections.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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