

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Corrections and Institutions to which was referred  
3 House Bill No. 703 entitled “An act relating to promoting workforce  
4 development” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and  
5 recommends that the report of the Committee on Ways and Means be amended  
6 by striking out Sec. 6, justice-involved individuals; workforce development;  
7 pilot program, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 6 to read  
8 as follows:

9 Sec. 6. INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS; WORKFORCE  
10 DEVELOPMENT; PILOT PROGRAM

11 (a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to facilitate the education and  
12 vocational training of incarcerated individuals so that they have a greater  
13 likelihood of obtaining gainful employment and positively contribute to society  
14 upon reintegration into the community.

15 (b) Policy; appropriations.

16 (1)(A) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$420,000.00 of the funds  
17 appropriated to the Department of Corrections shall be allocated to address  
18 education and vocational enhancement needs. These funds shall not be [may  
19 be] allocated from [specific program within JR II?] any amounts budgeted for  
20 Justice Reinvestment II initiatives, which includes Domestic Violence

1 Accountability Programs, Transitional Housing, or other initiatives approved  
2 for funding by the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee.

3 (B) The Department shall use funds for the development of education  
4 and vocational training for incarcerated individuals prior to community  
5 reintegration. The Department may allocate funds over three years, consistent  
6 with the following:

7 (i) \$270,000.00 for transition development, including equipment,  
8 renovation of vocational space, and mobile labs in one or more sites;

9 (ii) \$100,000.00 for training partner support; and

10 (iii) \$50,000.00 for curriculum development.

11 (2) In fiscal year 2023, the amount of \$300,000.00 is appropriated from  
12 the General Fund to the Department of Corrections, which may be allocated  
13 over not more than three years, to establish a community-based pilot reentry  
14 program at the Chittenden Correctional Facility. The Department shall  
15 designate a service provider to administer the pilot program's goals to:

16 (A) provide continuity of services for incarcerated individuals;

17 (B) expand current employment readiness programs within the  
18 facility by building pathways for coordinated transition to employment;

19 (C) focus on the first six months after individuals are released from  
20 the facility;

1 (D) coordinate with local community resources, parole and probation  
2 offices, and other supports to ensure successful transition into the community;

3 (E) assist individuals in successfully transitioning into new jobs; and

4 (F) work with employers to support successful hiring and best  
5 practices to support incarcerated individuals.

6 (c) Report. On or before January 15, 2023, the Department of Corrections  
7 shall create and submit a report on Workforce and Education Training  
8 Programs in Correctional Facilities to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight  
9 Committee; the House Committees on Corrections and Institutions and on  
10 Commerce and Economic Development; and the Senate Committees on  
11 Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Judiciary. The  
12 report shall:

13 (1) identify program design, logistical needs, and policy changes to  
14 current Department of Corrections facility-based training and educational  
15 programs necessary to successfully support incarcerated individuals'  
16 reintegration into their communities, including changes to programs that better  
17 support individuals' skill development, knowledge, and support needed to  
18 qualify and secure a position in a critical occupation in Vermont;

19 (2) identify disparities of outcomes and recommend solutions for  
20 incarcerated BIPOC individuals concerning facility-based training, educational  
21 programming, and successful community reintegration;

1           (3) provide an update on the Department of Corrections’ use of  
2           education and vocational enhancement funding in fiscal year 2023; and

3           (4) provide recommendations on what aspects of the pilot program  
4           should be replicated in other correctional facilities in Vermont; and

5           (5) provide recommended legislation for the continuation of the pilot  
6           program or any changes.

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14           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE