

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 648

Short Title: Correction Enterprises/Funds.-AB (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Gibson, R. Warren (Primary Sponsors); and Faison.

Referred to: Commerce, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, if favorable, Appropriations.

March 15, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REVISE AND RECODIFY THE LAW AUTHORIZING THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION ENTERPRISES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A STUDY OF THE JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR INCARCERATED INMATES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 148 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 14.

"Correction Enterprises.

"§ 148-123. Authorization for Correction Enterprises.

The Division of Correction Enterprises is established as a division of the Department of Correction. The Division of Correction Enterprises may develop and operate industrial, agricultural, and service enterprises that employ incarcerated offenders in an effort to provide them with meaningful work experiences and rehabilitative opportunities that will increase their employability upon release from prison.

"§ 148-124. Purposes of Correction Enterprises.

Correction Enterprises shall serve the following purposes:

- (1) To provide incarcerated offenders a work and training environment that emulates private industry;
- (2) To provide incarcerated offenders with training opportunities that allow them to increase work skills and employability upon release from prison;
- (3) To provide quality goods and services to tax-supported entities;
- (4) To aid victims by contributing a portion of its proceeds to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund; and
- (5) To generate sufficient funds from the sale of goods and services to be a self-supporting operation.

1 **"§ 148-125. Correction Enterprises Fund.**

2 (a) All revenues from the sale of articles and commodities manufactured or
3 produced by Correction Enterprises shall be deposited with the State Treasurer to be
4 kept and maintained as a special revolving working-capital fund designated "Correction
5 Enterprises Fund."

6 (b) Revenue in the Correction Enterprises Fund shall be applied first to capital
7 and operating expenditures, including salaries and wages of personnel necessary to
8 develop and operate Correction Enterprises and incentive wages for inmates employed
9 by Correction Enterprises or participating in work assignments established by the
10 Division of Prisons. Of the remaining revenue in the Fund, five percent (5%) of the net
11 profits, before expansion costs, shall be credited to the Crime Victims Compensation
12 Fund established in G.S. 15B-23 as soon as practicable after profits have been
13 determined for the previous year. At the direction of the Governor, the remainder shall
14 be used for other purposes within the State prison system or shall be transferred to the
15 General Fund.

16 (c) The Correction Enterprises Fund shall be the source of all incentive wages
17 and allowances paid to inmates employed by Correction Enterprises and inmates
18 participating in work assignments established by the Division of Prisons.

19 **"§ 148-126. Powers and responsibilities.**

20 In order to fulfill the purposes set forth in G.S. 148-124, the Division of Correction
21 Enterprises is authorized and empowered to take all actions necessary in the operation
22 of its enterprises, including the following actions:

- 23 (1) To develop and operate industrial, agricultural, and service enterprises
24 either within prison facilities or outside the prison facilities;
- 25 (2) To plan and establish new industrial, agricultural, and service
26 enterprises so long as any new enterprise is specifically approved by
27 the Governor as required by G.S. 66-58(f);
- 28 (3) To employ inmates and any other personnel that may be necessary in
29 the operation of Correction Enterprises;
- 30 (4) To expand, diminish, or discontinue any enterprise operating under its
31 authority;
- 32 (5) To purchase any machinery, equipment, materials, and supplies
33 required in the operation of its enterprises;
- 34 (6) To market and sell the goods and services produced by Correction
35 Enterprises;
- 36 (7) To determine the prices at which products and services produced by
37 inmate labor shall be sold;
- 38 (8) To execute and enter into contracts;
- 39 (9) To execute and enter into leases;
- 40 (10) To establish and operate an enterprise that complies with all applicable
41 federal laws and guidelines required by the federal Prison Industry
42 Enhancement Certification Program (Justice Assistance Act of 1984:
43 Public Law 98-473, Section 819);

- 1 (11) To establish policies and procedures regarding the operation of
2 Correction Enterprises; and
3 (12) To take any action necessary and appropriate for the effective
4 operation of its enterprises, so long as that action complies with
5 applicable State and federal laws.

6 **"§ 148-127. Distribution of products and services.**

7 Correction Enterprises is empowered and authorized to market and sell products and
8 services produced by Correction Enterprises to any of the following entities:

- 9 (1) Any public agency or institution owned, managed, or controlled by the
10 State;
11 (2) Any county, city, or town in this State;
12 (3) Any federal, state, or local public agency or institution in any other
13 state of the union;
14 (4) An entity or organization that has tax-exempt status pursuant to section
15 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and also receives local, state,
16 or federal grant funding; or
17 (5) Any employee of the State of North Carolina.

18 **"§ 148-128. Inmate wages and conditions of employment.**

19 (a) The Secretary shall adopt rules for the administration and management of
20 personnel policies for inmates who work for Correction Enterprises, including wages,
21 working hours, training requirements, and conditions of employment. The Secretary
22 shall adopt rules to ensure that inmates participating in the Prison Industry Enhancement
23 Certification Program comply with all applicable federal rules and regulations.

24 (b) No inmate working for Correction Enterprises shall be paid more than three
25 dollars (\$3.00) per day unless applicable State or federal laws require a higher salary.
26 Inmates who are employed as part of the Prison Industry Enhancement Certification
27 Program shall be paid in accordance with applicable federal rules and regulations.

28 **"§ 148-129. Preference for Department of Correction products.**

29 All departments, institutions, and agencies of this State that are supported in whole
30 or in part by the State shall give preference to Correction Enterprises products in
31 purchasing articles, products, and commodities that these departments, institutions, and
32 agencies require and that are manufactured or produced within the State prison system
33 and offered for sale to them by the Correction Enterprises. No article or commodity
34 available from the Correction Enterprises shall be purchased by any such State
35 department, institution, or agency from any other source unless the prison product does
36 not meet the standard specifications and the reasonable requirements of the department,
37 institution, or agency as determined by the Secretary of Administration or the
38 requisition cannot be complied with because of an insufficient supply of the articles or
39 commodities required. The provisions of Article 3 of Chapter 143 of the General
40 Statutes respecting contracting for the purchase of all supplies, materials, and equipment
41 required by the State government or any of its departments, institutions, or agencies
42 under competitive bidding shall not apply to articles or commodities available from
43 Correction Enterprises. Correction Enterprises shall be required to keep the price of

1 such articles or commodities substantially in accord with that paid by governmental
2 agencies for similar articles and commodities of equivalent quality."

3 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 148-2(b) is repealed.

4 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 148-18(a) reads as rewritten:

5 "(a) ~~Prisoners employed in prison enterprises shall be compensated at hourly rates~~
6 ~~fixed by the Department of Correction's rules and regulations, or on the basis of~~
7 ~~production quotas established by prison enterprises, for work performed; provided, that~~
8 ~~no prisoner working for prison enterprises shall be paid more than three dollars (\$3.00)~~
9 ~~per day from funds made available by the Prison Enterprises Fund.~~

10 Prisoners employed by Correction Enterprises shall be compensated as set forth in
11 Article 14 of this Chapter. Prisoners employed other than by prison enterprises and
12 those involved in the maintenance and housekeeping of the prison system, participating
13 in work assignment established by the Division of Prisons shall be compensated at rates
14 fixed by the Department of Correction's rules and regulations; provided, that no prisoner
15 so paid shall receive more than one dollar (\$1.00) per day. day, unless the Secretary
16 determines that the work assignment requires special skills or training. Upon approval
17 of the Secretary, inmates working in job assignments requiring special skills or training
18 may be paid up to three dollars (\$3.00) per day. The source of wages and allowances
19 provided inmates who are not employed by prison enterprises shall be funds provided
20 by the Department of Transportation to the Department of Correction for this purpose.
21 The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to wages paid by private prison
22 enterprises conducted pursuant to G.S. 148-70. The Correction Enterprises Fund shall
23 be the source of wages and allowances provided to inmates who are employed by the
24 Department of Correction in work assignments established by the Division of Prisons."

25 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 148-70 reads as rewritten:

26 "**§ 148-70. Management and care of inmates; ~~prison industries; disposition of~~**
27 **~~products of inmate labor. inmates.~~**

28 The State Department of Correction in all contracts for labor shall provide for
29 feeding and clothing the inmates and shall maintain, control and guard the quarters in
30 which the inmates live during the time of the contracts; and the Department shall
31 provide for the guarding and working of such inmates under its sole supervision and
32 control. The Department may make such contracts for the hire of the inmates confined
33 in the State prison as may in its discretion be proper. ~~In accordance with the provisions~~
34 ~~of Article 11 of Chapter 66 of the General Statutes, the Department may use the labor of~~
35 ~~inmates confined in the State prison in work on farms and manufacturing, either within~~
36 ~~or without the State prison. The Department may dispose of the products of the labor of~~
37 ~~the inmates, either in farming or in manufacturing or in other industry at the State Prison~~
38 ~~System to any public institution owned, managed, or controlled by the State, or to any~~
39 ~~county, city or town in this State, or to any federal, state, or local public institution in~~
40 ~~any other state of the union. Provided however, no manufacturing or other industry shall~~
41 ~~be established, supervised or controlled by the Department unless specifically approved~~
42 ~~by the Governor pursuant to G.S. 66-58(f).~~

43 ~~All departments, institutions and agencies of this State which are supported in whole~~
44 ~~or in part by the State shall give preference to Department of Correction products in~~

1 purchasing articles, products, and commodities which these departments, institutions,
2 and agencies require and which are manufactured or produced within the State prison
3 system and offered for sale to them by the Department of Correction, and no article or
4 commodity available from the Department of Correction shall be purchased by any such
5 State department, institution, or agency from any other source unless the prison product
6 does not meet the standard specifications and the reasonable requirements of the
7 department, institution, or agency as determined by the Secretary of Administration, or
8 the requisition cannot be complied with because of an insufficient supply of the articles
9 or commodities required. The provisions of Article 3 of Chapter 143 of the General
10 Statutes respecting contracting for the purchase of all supplies, materials and equipment
11 required by the State government or any of its departments, institutions or agencies
12 under competitive bidding shall not apply to articles or commodities available from the
13 Department of Correction, but the Department of Correction shall be required to keep
14 the price of such articles or commodities substantially in accord with that paid by
15 governmental agencies for similar articles and commodities of equivalent quality as
16 determined by the Secretary by reference to competitive bidding as required by law.

17 In addition, the Secretary of Correction may lease one or more buildings or portions
18 of buildings on the grounds of any State correctional institution or location under
19 Department of Correction control, together with the real estate needed for reasonable
20 access to such buildings, for a term not to exceed 20 years, to a private corporation for
21 the purpose of establishing and operating a factory for the manufacture and processing
22 of products or any other commercial enterprise deemed by the Secretary to provide
23 employment opportunities for inmates in meaningful jobs for wages. A lease entered
24 into pursuant to this section may include provisions for the remodeling or construction
25 of buildings. Each lease shall be approved by the Governor and Council of State and
26 may be entered into only after consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on
27 Governmental Operations. Each lease negotiated and concluded pursuant to this section
28 shall include and shall be valid only so long as the lessee adheres to the following
29 provisions:

- 30 (1) All persons employed in the factory or other commercial enterprise
31 operated in or on the leased property, except the lessee's supervisory
32 employee and necessary training personnel, shall be inmates who are
33 approved for such employment by the Secretary or his designee.
- 34 (2) The factory or other commercial enterprise operated in or on the leased
35 property shall observe at all times such practices and procedures
36 regarding security as the lease may specify or as the Secretary may
37 stipulate.
- 38 (3) The factory or other commercial enterprise operated on the leased
39 property shall be deemed a private enterprise and subject to all the
40 laws and lawfully adopted rules of this State governing the operation
41 of similar business enterprises elsewhere, except that the provisions of
42 G.S. 66-58 shall not apply to the industries or products of such private
43 enterprise.

1 ~~The Secretary shall adopt rules for the administration and management of personnel~~
2 ~~policies for prisoner workers including wages, working hours, and conditions of~~
3 ~~employment.~~

4 ~~Except as prohibited by applicable provisions of the United States Code, inmates of~~
5 ~~correctional institutions of this State may be employed in the manufacture and~~
6 ~~processing of products and services for introduction into interstate commerce, so long as~~
7 ~~they are paid no less than the prevailing minimum wage."~~

8 **SECTION 5.(a)** The Department of Correction shall study the job training
9 programs available for incarcerated inmates through Correction Enterprises or through
10 work assignments related to the operation of the prison system and report to the Chairs
11 of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety by
12 May 1, 2008. In creating the report, the Department shall consult with the Department
13 of Labor, the Department of Commerce, the Employment Security Commission and
14 other agencies, organizations, or stakeholders that focus on job training and
15 employment. The report shall include:

- 16 (1) A description of the specific programs that provide incarcerated
17 offenders the opportunity to enhance job skills and employability upon
18 release from prison;
- 19 (2) The number of offenders who participate in those programs;
- 20 (3) Any data supporting the effectiveness of such training programs;
- 21 (4) Recommendations for increasing inmate participation in job training
22 programs and enhancing employability of inmates upon release; and
- 23 (5) Employment resources available to offenders upon release from
24 prison.

25 **SECTION 5.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
26 Department of Correction the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the
27 2007-2008 fiscal year to conduct the study required by subsection (a) of this section.

28 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.