
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 581 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, KENYATTA, SANCHEZ, MADDEN, PARKER,
HOHENSTEIN, WARREN, KIM AND CONKLIN, MARCH 20, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 20, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in inmate labor, further providing for
3 inmates accounts and providing for skilled labor and for
4 participation and refusal to work.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 3124(b) of Title 61 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by
9 adding a subsection to read:

10 § 3124. Inmates accounts.

11 * * *

12 (b) Contents of accounts.--In the account, the department
13 shall credit the inmate with wages for the time the inmate is
14 actually engaged in work. [The rate of the wage and the amount
15 credited to each inmate shall be determined at the discretion of
16 the department.]

17 (c) Wages.--

18 (1) The rate of wages and the amount credited to each
19 inmate under subsection (b) shall be a minimum of \$5 per

1 hour.

2 (2) The department shall determine a graduated wage
3 scale based on experience and level of skill needed to
4 perform the inmate's job.

5 (3) The department shall provide annual bonuses to
6 inmate workers with the amount to be determined at the
7 discretion of the department.

8 Section 2. Title 61 is amended by adding sections to read:

9 § 3124.1. Skilled labor.

10 (a) Education.--The department shall provide education for
11 an inmate to become certificated in skilled labor.

12 (b) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
13 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
14 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Skilled labor." A segment of the workforce that requires
16 specialized training, education or experience to complete
17 complex physical or mental tasks.

18 § 3124.2. Participation and refusal to work.

19 An inmate may choose to work or take part in the educational
20 or vocational programs provided by the department. An inmate may
21 not be placed in solitary confinement, punished or retaliated
22 against in any way for refusing to work.

23 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.