

Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1759

Patron: Gardner

Bill Title: Department of Corrections; Department of Workforce Development and Advancement; post-release job search assistance services.

Bill Summary: Provides that the Department of Corrections shall work with the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement to provide post-release job search assistance services to assist individuals in finding employment upon release from incarceration and refer such individuals to case management services where eligible.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: NA

Explanation: The Governor's introduced budget includes funding for five positions to continue a re-entry job placement collaboration between the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement and the Department of Corrections; thus no budget amendment required.

Fiscal Summary:

This bill impacts the Department of Workforce Development & Advancement (DWDA) as it will increase outreach, job placement and support services guidance. The fiscal impact of this legislation is anticipated to be \$376,935, which is included in the Governor's introduced budget in Item 354. It is anticipated that the Department of Corrections can absorb any costs associated with this bill.

Fiscal Analysis:

The DWDA operations are funded by the NGF federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant funds. This type of activity would require the use of WIOA Title III Wagner-Peyser resources that are designated for employment services. Those funds have already been allocated for current and future operations. The DWDA has reached capacity for the current job placement services it provides to citizens of the Commonwealth.

The introduced budget includes five positions to be dedicated towards serving the Correction's inmate population for enhanced services due to special needs and unique barriers that inhibit job placement and long-term employment solutions. The budget assumes the annual cost per position is \$75,389 (includes salary and benefits). The annual cost for five positions is \$376,935 (includes salaries and benefits).

Other: None