

State of Arkansas
77th General Assembly
Regular Session, 1989
By: Senator Bookout

S.C.R. 14

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING ALL STATE AGENCIES TO PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE TO
CITIZENS OF THIS STATE BY UTILIZING PRISON INMATES FOR
APPROPRIATE PROJECTS WHICH RESULT IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR
THE INMATES AND SAVINGS OF REVENUE FOR THE STATE.

WHEREAS, the rehabilitation and reintegration of prison inmates into society is a goal of all correction programs; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Correction operates an exemplary program of agricultural and industrial training for inmates; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Correction has a surplus of trained workers awaiting placement in work-release programs throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Correction can offer assistance to state agencies involved in projects which would be appropriate to utilize prison inmate labor; and

WHEREAS, utilization of prison inmate labor by state agencies would provide inmates with an opportunity to demonstrate to society their willingness to make a useful contribution to society; and

WHEREAS, the greatest current opportunity which has been recently highly publicized which would lend itself to the use of prison inmate labor would be in the renovation of Rogers Hall or construction of an alternative facility at the State Hospital site; and

WHEREAS, the utilization of inmate labor by state agencies could result in a progressive program of cooperation between the Department of Correction

and other state agencies demonstrating a savings of state revenues; and

WHEREAS, the additional training opportunities offered by such a program would offer an inmate an opportunity to acquire more marketable skills during the period of his incarceration in the department; and

WHEREAS, the willingness of state agencies to utilize inmate labor for appropriate projects would serve as a shining example to the private sector that positive steps must be taken to assist in the rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates into society;

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

That all state agencies explore the possibility of utilizing prison inmate labor for appropriate projects within their offices which would benefit the inmate and result in significant cost savings to taxpayers of the State of Arkansas;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human Services consider the potential use of prison inmate labor in the renovation of Rogers Hall or the construction of an alternative facility which might be required for the state to meet federal program requirements and court orders.