

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1894

4
5 By: Representatives Blount, Allen, T. Baker, Davis, Hoyt, Ingram, W. Lewellen, Rainey, Saunders,
6 Shelby, Word
7 By: Senator Steele

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION TO
12 PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL
13 OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL INMATES NOT SERVING A LIFE
14 SENTENCE OR A SENTENCE FOR CAPITAL MURDER; TO
15 MAKE ATTENDANCE AND COMPLETION OF SKILLS TRAINING
16 OR THE REACHING OF EDUCATIONAL THRESHOLDS
17 MANDATORY AND A CONDITION OF AN INMATE'S RELEASE
18 ON PAROLE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

21 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
22 TO PROVIDE MANDATORY SKILLS TRAINING AND
23 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND TO MAKE AN
24 INMATE'S RELEASE ON PAROLE CONDITIONED
25 ON THE COMPLETION OF THESE PROGRAMS.

28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

30 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 12-27-103(b), concerning the functions,
31 powers, and duties of the Department of Correction is amended to add a new
32 subdivision to read as follows:

33 (19)(A) The Department of Correction shall establish programs
34 designed to provide job skills and educational opportunities in every state
35 facility for every inmate not serving a life sentence, not serving a sentence
36 for capital murder, and not assigned to segregated housing due to behavior by



1 the inmate while in the custody of the Department of Correction.

2 (B)(i) The programs established under subdivision
 3 (b)(19)(A) of this section shall include technical job skills training
 4 similar to those found at a vocational school as well as educational classes
 5 commonly found in postsecondary educational institutions of higher learning
 6 upon adequate funding as determined by the correctional school system or the
 7 Riverside Vocational Technical School.

8 (ii) The Department of Correction may contract with
 9 state or private entities, such as junior or two-year colleges or vocational
 10 and technical schools, to provide the programs established under subdivision
 11 (b)(22)(A) of this section.

12
 13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 16-93-607, concerning parole eligibility
 14 for certain felonies is amended to add two new subsections to read as
 15 follows:

16 (h) An inmate otherwise eligible for parole under this section who
 17 does not already have a high school diploma or has not passed the general
 18 educational development (GED) test and obtained a high school credential must
 19 have passed the general educational development (GED) test and obtained a
 20 high school credential or completed a designated job skills program
 21 established by the Department of Correction under § 12-27-103(b)(19) before
 22 being released on parole unless excused by either the correctional school
 23 system or the Parole Board.

24 (i) This section only applies to an inmate who does not complete the
 25 department's boot camp program under § 12-28-201 et seq. and is incarcerated
 26 for an offense that was committed on or after the effective date of this act
 27 and has not established a record of sustained employment prior to
 28 incarceration.

29
 30 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 16-93-608 is amended to read as follows:

31 16-93-608. Class C or Class D felonies committed on or after April 1,
 32 1983.

33 (a) A person who commits a Class C felony or Class D felony on or
 34 after April 1, 1983, and who is incarcerated ~~therefor~~ for the Class C felony
 35 or Class D felony is eligible for release on parole after having served one-
 36 third (1/3) of his or her sentence, with credit for good-time allowances, or

1 one-third (1/3) of the time to which his or her sentence is commuted by
2 executive clemency, with credit for good-time allowances.

3 (b) An inmate otherwise eligible for parole under this section who
4 does not already have a high school diploma or has passed the general
5 educational development (GED) test and obtained a high school credential must
6 have passed the general educational development (GED) test and obtained a
7 high school credential or completed a designated job skills program
8 established by the Department of Correction under § 12-27-103(19) before
9 being released on parole unless excused by the correctional school system or
10 the Parole Board.

11 (c) This section applies only to an inmate who does not complete the
12 department's boot camp program under § 12-28-201 et seq. and is incarcerated
13 for an offense that was committed on or after the effective date of this act
14 and has not established a record of sustained employment prior to
15 incarceration.

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