
DIGEST

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HB 809 Original

2018 Regular Session

James

Abstract: Increases the rate of inmate compensation for inmates assigned to certain programs, and provides for a maximum amount that may be deducted to cover room, board, and other administrative and incidental costs of a work release program.

Present law authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) to establish various rates of compensation as an incentive to inmates incarcerated in state correctional facilities. Further provides that the rates shall be according to the skill, industry, and nature of the work performed by the inmate and shall be no more than 20 cents per hour, except that inmates who are assigned to Prison Enterprises' industrial, agricultural, service, or other programs may be compensated at a rate up to 40 cents per hour and inmates who are Certified Academic Tutors and Certified Vocational Tutors may be compensated at a rate of up to \$1.00 per hour.

Proposed law amends present law to increase these rates of compensation by one dollar.

Present law authorizes the sheriff of each parish and DPS&C to establish and administer a work release program for inmates. Further provides that every inmate with work release privileges shall be liable for the cost of room, board, clothing and other necessary expenses incident to his employment or placement and provides for the disbursement of such wages for specific purposes.

With regard to work release programs administered by a sheriff, proposed law amends present law to add that deductions for room, board, and other administrative and incidental costs resulting from participation in a work release program shall not exceed 50% of the gross wages received by the inmate.

With regard to the work release program administered by the DPS&C, proposed law decreases, from 70% of the inmate's wages to 50% of the inmate's wages, the amount that can be deducted to cover room, board, and other administrative and incidental costs.

Present law requires DPS&C to administer the inmate rehabilitation and workforce development program for certain purposes including the purpose of providing inmates with employment skills, job training, and employment once they have completed the program. In addition, present law authorizes the sheriff of each parish to enter into a cooperative endeavor with DPS&C to administer a workforce development work release program for inmates sentenced to DPS&C who are confined in a jail or prison in the sheriff's jurisdiction.

Present law further provides that every inmate with workforce development work release privileges

shall be liable for the cost of room, board, clothing, and other necessary expenses of his employment or placement unless other means of payment are approved by the department.

In this regard, proposed law provides as follows:

- (1) With regard to the program administered by DPS&C, proposed law decreases, from 70% of the inmate's wages to 50% of the inmate's wages, the amount that can be deducted to cover room, board, and other administrative and incidental costs.
- (2) With regard to a program administered by a sheriff, proposed law decreases, from 75% of the inmate's wages to 50% of the inmate's wages, the amount that can be deducted to cover room, board, and other administrative and incidental costs.

(Amends R.S. 15:873(A), 1111(H)(1), 1199.9(G), and 1199.10(H); Adds R.S. 15:711(I))