

Date of Hearing: May 11, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 2730 (Villapudua) – As Amended May 4, 2022

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 7 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill creates the California Anti-recidivism and Public Safety Act pilot program (pilot program) which requires the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to provide opportunities for job training and work experience to individuals during their last two years of incarceration. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires CDCR, in collaboration with the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and State and local workforce development boards, to identify public and private employers to participate in the program and provide on-the-job training and work experience opportunities to program participants.
- 2) Requires program participants to be housed in a community campus setting, which is defined as a public or private facility in the community in an environment away from the prison setting. All persons transferred to a community campus shall remain under the legal custody CDCR and CDCR is required to use the least restrictive alternative to incarceration and restraint possible to achieve the objectives of the pilot program.
- 3) Allows CDCR to enter into contracts with public or private agencies, including community based organizations, to provide housing, training and services and for the supervision of individuals that are placed in the program.
- 4) Requires, on or before March 1, 2027, CDCR to submit a comprehensive report to the Legislature that evaluates the effectiveness of the pilot program including a recommendation on whether the pilot program should be continued.
- 5) Sunsets the pilot program on January 1, 2028.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Costs (General Fund (GF)) of an unknown, but possibly significant amount in the millions of dollars in one-time and ongoing costs to CDCR to offer opportunities for job training to inmates pending release, transfer inmates to a “community campus setting” and coordinate with GO-Biz and possibly the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) to identify employers to participate in the pilot program. Costs to CDCR will likely include additional staff to identify and refer eligible inmates to the pilot program, track data points about participation, transfer eligible inmates to a “community campus setting,” contract with

third party vendors to provide housing to eligible inmates and to prepare a report to the Legislature. This bill requires CDCR to use existing resources to fund the pilot program. The Governor's 2022 Budget allocates a total of \$14.2 billion to CDCR for operations in 2022-23. The Governor's Budget also identifies and proposes additional spending on several CDCR rehabilitation programs, including \$1.6 million over three years for the Returning Home Well program, \$5 million GF in fiscal year (FY)2022-23, and \$4.7 million ongoing, to permanently fund bachelor's degree programs at seven CDCR institutions, \$567,000 in FY 2022-23, \$1 million through 2025-26 for tattoo removal and \$3.9 million GF in FY 2022-23 and \$4.6 million ongoing to provide administrative support for the operation of these rehabilitative services. CDCR utilizes funds from the GF to provide rehabilitation services for inmates. If this bill were enacted, it may require CDCR to abandon other already implemented programs and fund this pilot program instead since it appears to require use of existing resources. Alternatively, CDCR will likely seek additional funding to meet the obligations performed by this bill.

- 2) Costs (GF) of an unknown, but possibly significant amount in excess of \$150,000 to GO-Biz and the LWDA in additional staff workload to identify public and private employers to participate in the program and provide on-the-job training and work experience opportunities to program participants and coordinate with CDCR.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Assembly Bill 2132 will increase public safety and help break the cycle of poverty by ensuring that individuals who are incarcerated have the tools they need to ensure they have a real opportunity at redemption and financial independence when they return home and not end up back behind bars again.

- 2) **Existing Rehabilitation Programs.** According to the CDCR website, in-prison programs provide comprehensive educational programs, treatment programs and pre-release rehabilitative programs for people while in prison. These programs focus on cognitive behavioral interventions, pre-release education, planning, skills and acquiring a California identification card. Additionally, the LWDA has a partnership with CDCR to provide more employment opportunities to people returning from prison. The LWDA, Workforce Development Board also held a prison to employment summit in 2022. According to the LWDA website:

The Corrections Workforce Partnership Agreement is intended to strengthen linkages between the state workforce and corrections systems in order to improve the process by which the formerly incarcerated and justice-involved individuals reenter society and the labor force. The Prison to Employment Initiative was a grant program that included \$37 million over three budget years to operationalize integration of workforce and reentry services in the state's 14 labor regions. The goal is to improve labor market outcomes by creating a systemic and ongoing partnership between rehabilitative programs within CDCR and the state workforce

system by bringing CDCR under the policy umbrella of the State Workforce Plan.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 2250 (Bonta), would require CDCR to establish a reentry services pilot program to provide comprehensive, structured reentry services for women released from state prison. AB 2250 is pending in this committee.

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