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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

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### AB 2730 (Villapudua) - Prisons: rehabilitation programs

**Version:** June 30, 2022

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 1, 2022

**Policy Vote:** PUB. S. 5 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Matthew Fleming

**Bill Summary:** AB 2730 would create the California Antirecidivism and Public Safety Act pilot program, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, for the purpose of providing opportunities for job training and work experience to individuals during incarceration to ensure their employment readiness.

#### Fiscal Impact:

- Staff notes cost pressures to the General Fund of an unknown, but likely significant amount, possibly in the millions of dollars annually through 2027-28 for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in order to fund and implement the pilot program (General Fund).
- CWDB: The California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) reports annual costs of approximately \$100,000 through 2027-28 for salary, benefits, operating expenses, and equipment of one part time Staff Services Manager I (General Fund).
- GO-Biz: The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) reports minor and absorbable costs to identify public and private employers to participate in the pilot program (General Fund). GO-Biz does not offer job training programs directly.

**Background:** CDCR's residential rehabilitative programs provide individuals the opportunity to serve a part of their sentence in community programs in lieu of confinement in state prison and connect participants to community rehabilitative services and programs focused on skills such as substance abuse treatment, education, housing, family reunification, vocational training and employment services. CDCR currently offers the following programs.

- The Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Program (CCTRP) allows eligible females to serve the end of their sentence in community facilities in lieu of confinement in state prison. Participants are still considered incarcerated. These residential facilities are operated by community based organizations that provide a range of rehabilitative services to assist with substance use disorders, anger management, employment, education, housing, healthcare, family reunification, and social support allowing participants to demonstrate attitude and behavioral change to create opportunity for success and positive life choices.
- The Community Prisoner Mother Program (CPMP) is a community substance abuse treatment program where non-serious, nonviolent female offenders may serve a

sentence up to six years. The CPMP has been in existence since 1985 and is mandated by Penal Code Section 3410. Women are placed in the program from any of the female institutions. The CPMP is a 24-bed facility, which is not the property of CDCR, and a private contractor provides program services at a Pomona facility.

- The Alternative Custody Program (ACP) is a voluntary program developed for eligible incarcerated individuals that allows them to serve up to the last 12 months of their sentence in the community in lieu of confinement in state prison. Eligible participants may be housed in a private residence, a transitional care facility or a residential drug or other treatment program. ACP participants remain under the jurisdiction of CDCR and are supervised by parole agents while in the community. One day of participation in ACP shall be in lieu of one day of incarceration in a state prison. Participants receive credits for time served they would have received while incarcerated in state prison.
- The Male Community Reentry Program (MCRP) is a voluntary program for eligible males who have two years or less of their prison sentence left to serve. This program allows eligible people committed to state prison to serve the end of their sentences in the community, in lieu of confinement in state prison. Individuals are eligible to participate up to two years before their earliest possible release date.

This bill would create a five-year pilot program to assist incarcerated persons nearing the end of their prison sentence with job readiness skills in a more “real world” setting. This bill requires CDCR to select at least 50 individuals to participate in the pilot program, and eligible participants include only those incarcerated persons who are eligible for release from state prison to parole within two years and who are selected by the warden. Program participants would have access to evidence-based programs designed to meet their rehabilitative, workforce training, and education needs, including, mental and behavioral health assistance, counseling, family reunification services, education and workforce programs, health care services, recovery groups, post-release housing support services, career counseling, job placement assistance, and substance use disorder treatment programs, among others. This bill additionally requires program participants to participate in workplace training, on-the-job training, internships, apprenticeships, and work experiences in realistic work environments aimed at job placement opportunities upon release from incarceration.

**Proposed Law:**

- Requires CDCR, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, to establish and implement a pilot program under which the primary purpose is to provide opportunities for job training and work experience to individuals during their incarceration to ensure their readiness for employment upon release from prison.
- Requires that an incarcerated individual meet the following criteria in order to be eligible to participate in the pilot program:
  - Be eligible for release from state imprisonment to parole within two years on the basis of either the earliest possible release date or minimum eligible parole date, computed as if the maximum amount of good time credit would be granted;

- Be selected to participate by the warden or the warden's designee; and,
  - Be classified for Level I or Level II placement, based on departmental regulations, as specified, and not assigned a Close Custody or Maximum Custody designation. Specifies that priority shall be given to Level I classifications.
- Requires that program participants have access to evidence-based programs suitable for serving their rehabilitative, workforce training, and education needs, including, but not limited to, all of the following: mental and behavioral health assistance; guidance and support; counseling; group therapy; family reunification services; community resources; education and workforce programs, including adult basic education, General Education Development (GED) certification, high school diploma program, college and postsecondary education programs, career technical education, and vocational training programs; health care services; recovery groups; postrelease housing support services; services to prepare program participants for employment, including, but not limited to, communication skills, interviewing skills, financial literacy services, basic computer skills training, comprehensive and individualized education, career and skills-based assessments, career counseling, and job placement assistance; and substance use disorder treatment programs.
  - Requires program participants to participate in workplace training, on-the-job training, internships, apprenticeships, and work experiences in realistic work environments aimed at job placement opportunities upon release from incarceration.
  - 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.
  - Requires that program participants be housed in a community campus. Defines "community campus" to mean a public or private facility in the community in an environment away from the prison setting. Provides that all persons transferred to a community campus remain under the legal custody of CDCR. Requires CDCR use the least restrictive alternative to incarceration and restraint possible to achieve the objectives of this chapter consistent with public safety.
  - Provides that upon release to parole, program participants may continue to participate in the program and receive services, and must be provided assistance in securing adequate housing arrangements, such as transitional or permanent housing, based on the individual needs of the program participant.
  - Provides that CDCR, in determining how to implement the pilot program, may enter into contracts with appropriate 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.
  - Requires CDCR to establish reasonable rules and regulations concerning the operation of the pilot program.

- Requires CDCR to select at least 50 individuals to participate in the pilot program.
- Requires CDCR to submit a comprehensive report to the Legislature that evaluates the effectiveness of the pilot program on or before March 1, 2027. Requires that the report include all of the following:
  - The total number of participants served by the program and their dates of participation.
  - A list of public and private employers who participate in the program.
  - A list of private and public agencies, including community-based organizations, that participate in the program.
  - A summary of the impact of the services and programs on the participants.
  - Whether participation in the program led to employment in occupations with a livable wage upon release from incarceration.
- Requires the report to include a recommendation on whether the pilot program should be continued.
- Provides that the pilot program sunsets on January 1, 2028.

**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 was held on suspense in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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