

A BILL

FOR AN ACT PROHIBITING THE LETTING BY CONTRACT OF THE CONVICT LABOR OF STATE PENITENTIARIES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF CONVICTS FOR THE STATE AND FOR COUNTIES THEREIN, IN THE MANUFACTURE OF SUPPLIES FOR STATE AND COUNTY INSTITUTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. The board of control shall not, nor shall any other authority whatsoever,
2 make any contract by which the labor or time of any prisoner in any state prison in this
3 state, or the product or profit of his work, shall be contracted, let, farmed out, given or sold
4 to any person or firm, association or corporation, except that the convicts in said penal insti-
5 tutions may work for, and the products of their labor may be disposed of, to the state or any
6 county therein for use in any public institution owned or managed and controlled by the state
7 or any county therein.

Sec. 2. The board of control and wardens of penitentiaries in the state, shall, so far as
2 practicable, cause all the prisoners in said institutions, who are physically capable thereof, to
3 be employed at hard labor, for not to exceed eight hours each day, other than Sundays and
4 public holidays, but such hard labor shall be either for the purpose of production of supplies
5 for said penitentiaries, or for other institutions owned, managed and controlled by the state,
6 or to institutions owned, managed and controlled by any county therein, including labor and
7 materials to be used in the erection of the buildings.

Sec. 3. The board of control shall establish three grades among the convicts of the state
2 penitentiaries, to be known as the first, second, and third grades, the classification of each
3 convict to be based upon his conduct and efficiency of his work under such rules as shall be
4 established by the board of control.

Sec. 4. The labor of the prisoners of the first grade in each of said prisons, shall be
2 directed with reference to fitting the prisoner to maintain himself by honest industry after his
3 discharge from imprisonment, as the primary or sole object of such labor, and such prisoners
4 of the first grade may be so employed at hard labor for industrial training and instruction
5 solely, even though no useful or salable products shall result from their labor, but only in
6 case such industrial training or instruction can be more effectively given in such manner.

7 Otherwise, and so far as is consistent with the primary object of the labor of prisoners of the
8 first grade, as aforesaid, the labor of such prisoners shall be so directed as to produce the
9 greatest amount of useful products, articles and supplies needed and used in the said institu-
10 tions, and in the buildings and offices of the state, or those of any county therein, or in any
11 public institution owned, managed or controlled by the state or any county therein, or said
12 labor may be for the state or any county therein.

Sec. 5. The labor of prisoners of the second grade in said prisons shall be directed pri-
2 marily to labor for the state or any county therein, or to the production and manufacture of
3 useful articles and supplies for said institutions or for any public institution owned or man-
4 aged and controlled by the state, or any county thereof.

Sec. 6. The labor of prisoners of the third grade shall be directed to such exercise as
2 shall tend to the preservation of health, or they shall be employed in labor for the state, or
3 any county therein, or in the manufacture of such useful articles and supplies as are needed
4 and used in the said institutions, and in the public institutions owned or managed and con-
5 trolled by the state, or any county thereof.

Sec. 7. The direction of the labor of all convicts and the distribution of such labor, and
2 the products thereof under the preceding sections of this act shall be under such rules and
3 regulations as may be prescribed by the board of control of state institutions, and the said
4 board are hereby authorized to change or dispose of the present plants and machinery in said
5 institutions now used in industries which shall be discontinued, and which cannot be used in
6 the industries hereafter to be carried on in said prisons, due effort to be made by full notice
7 to probable purchasers in case of sales of industries or machinery, to obtain the best price
8 possible for the property sold. The said board of control shall biennially transmit to the leg-
9 islature with its regular report a statement showing in detail the amount and quantity of
10 each of the various articles manufactured in each of the penal institutions and the labor per-
11 formed by convicts therein, and of the disposition thereof.

Sec. 8. The various articles manufactured and produced by the said convicts shall be fur-
2 nished to the several state and county institutions, officers and buildings, under the rules and
3 regulations of said board of control, at and for the prices fixed thereon by said board, not
4 exceeding the fair and usual market prices thereof, and upon the requisition of the proper
5 officers of the state or counties, and the amounts thereby derived shall be paid into the treas-
6 ury by said counties or be charged to the proper funds of the several state institutions, and
7 shall be credited to the funds of the penal institution furnishing such supplies. Said board
8 of control shall cause to be prepared and furnished quarterly to the auditors of the several
9 counties and to the trustees of the state institutions not directly under their control, price-

10 lists of the articles manufactured and supplied by said penal institutions, and no article con-
11 tained in such price-lists shall be purchased from any other source for the state, or public
12 institutions of the state, or any county therein, unless the said board of control shall expressly
13 permit such purchase. Upon request of the said board of control the proper officers of the
14 state and counties, and of the institutions thereof, shall furnish estimates of the supplies that
15 will be required for such period as may be fixed by the rules of said board.

Sec. 9. The said board of control shall be authorized to employ such instructors and
2 superintendents as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing provisions of this act, and to
3 fix their compensation, provided that suitable instructors and superintendents cannot be
4 detailed from among the inmates of the penitentiaries.

Sec. 10. Every prisoner confined in the state penitentiaries who shall become entitled to
2 a diminution of his term of sentence by good conduct, may, in the discretion of the warden,
3 receive compensation from the earnings of the penitentiary in which he is confined, such
4 compensation to be graded by the warden of the prison for the prisoners therein for the time
5 such prisoners may work, but in no case shall the compensation allowed to such convicts
6 exceed in amount ten per centum of the earnings of the penitentiary in which they are con-
7 fined. The difference in the rate of compensation shall be based on the pecuniary value of
8 the work performed, and also on the willingness, industry and good conduct of such prisoner;
9 provided that whenever any prisoner shall forfeit his good time for misconduct or violation of
10 the rules or regulations of the penitentiary, he shall forfeit out of the compensation allowed
11 under this section fifty cents for each day of good time so forfeited, and provided, that pris-
12 oners serving life sentences shall be entitled to the benefit of this section when their conduct
13 is such as would entitle other prisoners to a diminution of sentence subject to forfeiture of
14 good time for misconduct as herein provided. The warden of each penitentiary may insti-
15 tute and maintain, subject to the approval of the board of control, a uniform system of fines,
16 to be imposed at his discretion, in place of other penalties and punishments, to be deducted
17 from such compensation standing to the credit of any prisoner, for misconduct by such pris-
18 oner.

Sec. 11. All moneys standing to the credit of any prisoner may, under the direction of
2 the board of control, be used for the support and maintenance of the family of such prisoner
3 or other persons whom such prisoner may be legally obliged to support and maintain.

Sec. 12. All moneys received for fines and forfeitures under this act shall be credited to
2 a general fund and be disbursed by the warden under the direction of the board of control
3 for special aid to discharged prisoners who are infirm, indigent, or in any way incapable to an
4 unusual degree, of earning a sufficient subsistence after their release.

Sec. 13. Nothing in this act shall in any manner effect or impair any contracts that have
2 been made by the Board of Control prior to the passage of this act.

Sec. 14. This act being deemed of immediate importance shall take effect and be in force
2 from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register and Des Moines Leader, newspapers
3 published at the city of Des Moines, Iowa.