

MAR 1 1999

LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

HOUSE FILE
BY GARMAN

3/9/99 Do Pass
4/6/99 Returned to Labor & Ind. Relations
2/1/00 Amend / Do Pass
3/21/00 ~~Removed~~ removed from Calendar
421

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to a study by the department of corrections of
2 the operation of the private industry employment of inmates
3 program.

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

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HOUSE FILE 421

H-1071

- 1 Amend House File 421 as follows:
- 2 1. Page 1, line 16, by striking the words "ensure
- 3 that an employer offers" and inserting the following:
- 4 "encourage an employer to offer".

By HORBACH of Tama

H-1071 FILED MARCH 10, 1999

HF 421

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS STUDY -- PRIVATE
2 INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT OF INMATES PROGRAM. The department of
3 corrections shall conduct a study concerning the operation of
4 the private industry employment of inmates program and issue a
5 report to the general assembly by January 1, 2000, detailing
6 specific recommendations for action. The study shall, at a
7 minimum, make recommendations concerning the following:

8 1. The department, in consultation with the department of
9 workforce development, shall develop and recommend to the
10 general assembly guidelines concerning the determination of
11 prevailing wages and whether private sector workers are
12 displaced due to inmate labor. In addition, the department
13 shall propose guidelines concerning an ongoing requirement of
14 employers using inmate labor to advertise for jobs.

15 2. The department shall study and propose a mechanism to
16 ensure that an employer offers an inmate working for that
17 employer a job upon the inmate's release from prison. The
18 department shall also examine whether any state laws or
19 policies impede an inmate's ability, upon release, to accept
20 an offer of employment from an employer.

21 3. The department shall develop and propose a uniform
22 policy concerning the charging of certain extraordinary
23 expenses incurred by the department in permitting employers to
24 employ inmates outside of the prison walls. Increased costs
25 for staff, security, and transportation shall be considered.

26 4. The department shall examine the economic advantages
27 and disadvantages to employers involved with the private
28 industry employment of inmates program. The department shall
29 develop and propose a method to attempt to limit, through the
30 charging of costs or by other means, any significant economic
31 benefit to employers who participate in the inmate employment
32 program over those employers who do not or cannot participate
33 in the program.

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EXPLANATION

35 This bill requires the department of corrections to conduct

1 a study concerning the private industry employment of inmates
2 program and to issue a report, with recommendations, to the
3 general assembly by January 1, 2000. The bill provides that,
4 among other things, the department shall study issues
5 involving prevailing wages, worker displacement, employer job
6 advertising, inmate employment upon release, charging of
7 additional costs incurred by the department in assisting
8 employers, and consideration of measures to reduce any
9 significant advantage to employers who participate in the
10 program.

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