



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 464 (Cross-filed: **SB** **Prince George's County-Prince George's Reentry**
Delegates J. **156**) **Employment Incentive Program-Funding**
Lewis, Charles, Prince George's
Ivey and Williams County
Senators

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 464 requires the Governor to include in his budget \$500,000 for the fiscal years 2025 through 2028 to be used by the Prince George's County Reentry Employment Incentive Program. The appropriation must be used to supplement existing funding appropriated for the program. Bill takes effect July 1, 2023.

Currently, Prince George's County has established a Reentry Employment Incentive Program that is administered by Employ Prince George's, and the program currently receives a \$300,000 grant from the county. A few key components of the County Program are as follows: A qualifying employee is 1) a resident who has been confined for 6 months or more for a criminal conviction in the previous 5 years; 2) has been released for 36 months prior to becoming employed; 3) was a county resident prior to their most recent incarceration; and 4) has been a county resident continuously since being released from the most recent time of incarceration. A qualifying employer must 1) do business with the County and comply with federal, state, and local requirements; 2) employ a qualifying employee in a qualifying position; 3) and must follow the Re-Entry Employment Reimbursement Program Agreement. A qualifying position is an 1) employment position located within the county and the employer must pay Maryland Unemployment Insurance Tax; 2) and the Employee works at least 21 hours a week and is paid at least \$15 an hour.

Prince George's County Council supports the Prince George's Reentry Employment Incentive Program-Funding. As mentioned above, the County Council passed legislation to create the County's Reentry Employment Incentive Program which is administered by the Employ Prince George's. The County Council believes in second chances for returning citizens and welcomes the state's initiative which will afford more opportunities, help with the risk of recidivism, and assist returning citizens to live a productive life.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council SUPPORTS HB 464 and respectfully requests the Committee's favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Ramirez Group, LLC on behalf of the Prince George's County Council.