

Amendment to HB 1555-FN-LOCAL

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2
3 AN ACT establishing a committee to study increasing wages, educational opportunities, and
4 the corresponding impact on recidivism among prisoners incarcerated in a state
5 correctional facility who work at or under the supervision of such facility.
6

7 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

8
9 1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study increasing wages,
10 educational opportunities, and the corresponding impact on recidivism among inmates incarcerated
11 in a state correctional facility who work at or under the supervision of such facility.

12 2 Membership and Compensation.

13 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

14 (a) Five members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
15 of representatives.

16 (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

17 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
18 the duties of the committee.

19 3 Duties.

20 I. The committee shall study:

21 (a) How the New Hampshire department of corrections could increase the wages of
22 prisoners under the supervision of a correctional facility who perform skilled jobs inside such a
23 facility, increase access to educational opportunities in the same facilities, and the relationship of
24 both to recidivism.

25 (b) Existing wage structure for prisoners.

26 (c) Wages paid to prisoners in other states for similar work to that performed by
27 prisoners in New Hampshire.

28 (d) Existing expenses for prisoners inside New Hampshire correctional facilities and
29 whether existing wages cover those expenses.

30 (e) Whether increased wages should be restricted to certain uses, such as educational
31 expenses.

32 (f) The different jobs performed by prisoners and whether there is reason to pay higher
33 wages for certain jobs over others.

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1 (g) Any possible rehabilitative impact of increased wages.

2 (h) The cost of increasing wages and whether wage increases could be rolled out
3 incrementally over multiple budget cycles.

4 (i) Whether there are existing policies or laws that would enable the department of
5 corrections to increase wages without additional legislation, and the possible benefits or challenges
6 of additional legislation on the matter.

7 (j) The interplay between prison wages, educational opportunities, and recidivism.

8 II. The committee shall solicit information from any individual or entity the committee
9 deems relevant to its study, including the commissioner of the department of corrections, the
10 American Civil Liberties Union, and individuals currently or formerly incarcerated in New
11 Hampshire.

12 4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from
13 among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house
14 member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this
15 section. Four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

16 5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
17 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
18 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2020.

19 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study increasing wages, educational opportunities, and corresponding impact on recidivism among inmates incarcerated in a state correctional facility who work at or under the supervision of such facility.