

1 HB262  
2 127424-1  
3 By Representatives McClendon, Buttram, Sanderford, Greer,  
4 Weaver, Nordgren, Johnson (K), Love, Hubbard (M) and Davis  
5 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security  
6 First Read: 22-MAR-11

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the employment of  
9 prisoners within the Department of Corrections  
10 facilities by private industry is not authorized.

11 This bill would specifically authorize the  
12 Department of Corrections to contract or enter into  
13 agreements with private industry to establish  
14 work-oriented rehabilitation programs within  
15 facilities located on property owned or operated by  
16 the Department of Corrections or any prison  
17 facility housing inmates sentenced to the  
18 department.

19  
20 A BILL

21 TO BE ENTITLED

22 AN ACT

23  
24 To amend Sections 14-7-7 and 14-7-22, Code of  
25 Alabama 1975, relating to the Department of Corrections prison  
26 industries, inmate training, and inmate rehabilitation; to  
27 authorize the department to contract with private industry for

1 on-site work programs; and to further provide vocational  
2 training and the rehabilitation of inmates through greater  
3 utilization of prison industries.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

5 Section 1. Sections 14-7-7 and 14-7-22, Code of  
6 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

7 "§14-7-7.

8 "It is hereby declared to be the intent of this  
9 chapter:

10 "(1) To provide more adequate, regular and suitable  
11 employment for the vocational training and rehabilitation of  
12 the prisoners of this state, consistent with proper penal  
13 purposes~~7~~.

14 "(2) To utilize the labor of prisoners for  
15 self-maintenance, ~~and for~~ reimbursing this state for expenses  
16 incurred by reason of their crimes and imprisonment; ~~and, and~~  
17 for initial living expenses upon reentry into the community  
18 following release from prison.

19 "(3) To effect the requisitioning and disbursement  
20 of prison products directly through established state  
21 authorities without possibility of private profits therefrom.

22 "(4) To provide prison industry projects designed to  
23 place inmates in working and training environments in which  
24 they are able to acquire marketable skills and earn money to  
25 off-set the cost of incarceration, make payments for  
26 restitution to their victims, provide support for their  
27 families, and prepare for their release from prison.

1                   "§14-7-22.

2                   "(a) ~~On and after August 13, 1976, it~~ It shall be  
3 unlawful for the Department of Corrections to sell or offer  
4 for sale on the open market of this state any articles or  
5 products manufactured wholly or in part in this or any other  
6 state by prisoners of this state or any other state, except  
7 prisoners participating in community correction programs, as  
8 defined under Section 15-18-170, et seq., or on parole, or  
9 probation, or any other kind of community supervision.

10                   "(b) Any person who willfully violates ~~the~~  
11 ~~provisions of subsection (a) of this section~~ shall be guilty  
12 of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be confined in  
13 jail for not less than 10 days nor more than one year or shall  
14 be fined not less than ~~\$10.00~~ ten dollars (\$10) nor more than  
15 ~~\$500.00~~ five hundred dollars (\$500), or both, in the  
16 discretion of the court."

17                   Section 2. (a) In order to implement work-oriented  
18 rehabilitation programs in an actual private enterprise work  
19 environment, the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections  
20 may contract or enter into agreements with private  
21 individuals, enterprises, partnerships, or corporations to  
22 develop joint plants, businesses, factories, or commercial  
23 enterprises. The contracts or agreements shall be limited to  
24 those in which the department contracts or agrees to furnish  
25 inmate labor for the manufacture of articles or products or to  
26 furnish inmate labor for the provision of service in  
27 facilities furnished by the department or the party or parties

1 and enter into contracts or agreements with the department.  
2 The facilities shall be on property owned or operated by the  
3 department or at any prison facility housing inmates sentenced  
4 to the department.

5 (b) An inmate may participate in the program  
6 established pursuant to this section only on a voluntary basis  
7 and only after he or she has been informed of the conditions  
8 of his or her employment.

9 (c) Inmates participating in programs where articles  
10 or products are manufactured in part or in whole shall earn  
11 not less than the prevailing wage for work of a similar nature  
12 in the private sector. The earnings of an inmate authorized to  
13 work at paid employment pursuant to this act shall be paid  
14 directly to the department. The department shall adopt rules  
15 concerning the disbursement of any earnings of the inmates  
16 involved in a program established pursuant to this section,  
17 including the payment of any and all court ordered  
18 restitution. The department shall withhold from an inmate's  
19 earnings the costs incident to the inmate's confinement, as  
20 the department shall deem appropriate and reasonable, and the  
21 moneys collected shall be deposited into the Department of  
22 Corrections Special Revenue Fund. In no event shall the  
23 withheld earnings exceed 40 percent of the gross earnings of  
24 the inmate. The department shall also comply with any order  
25 from a court of proper jurisdiction that directs the  
26 withholding of funds from an inmate's personal funds, not to  
27 exceed 40 percent of the earnings of the inmate. After all

1 expenses have been deducted by the department, the remainder  
2 of the inmate's earnings shall be credited to his or her  
3 account with the department. All such manufacturing programs  
4 shall be operated in compliance with the Federal Prison  
5 Industries Enhancement Act codified at 18 U.S.C. §1761(c).

6 (d) An inmate participating in the program shall not  
7 be considered an employee of the state and shall not be  
8 entitled to employee benefits.

9 (e) All products, goods, or items produced by work  
10 done under the auspices of contracts or agreements with the  
11 Department of Corrections shall be marketed by the party or  
12 parties that entered into the contract or agreement. In no  
13 instance may the department market these products, goods, or  
14 items.

15 (f) The Commissioner of the Department of  
16 Corrections may enter into contracts necessary to implement  
17 the prison industry program. The contractual agreements may  
18 include rental or lease agreements for state buildings or sale  
19 or lease of land on the grounds at an institution or a  
20 facility of the department and provide for reasonable access  
21 to and egress from the building to establish and operate a  
22 facility. Rental or lease agreements shall be exempt from the  
23 provisions and requirements of Chapter 16 of Title 41 of the  
24 Code of Alabama 1975, and other competitive bid laws.

25 (g) The Department of Corrections and the party or  
26 parties that enter into contracts or agreements under this act

1 shall be exempt from the provisions or penalties of Sections  
2 14-5-2 and 14-7-22 of the Code of Alabama 1975.

3 (h) Nothing in this section or act shall cause a  
4 reduction in the number of prisoners provided for training and  
5 work programs conducted on the campus of and by a two-year  
6 college and all such programs shall be provided a satisfactory  
7 number of prisoners for their prison education programs and  
8 all such prison education appropriations shall continue to  
9 fund such programs within the two-year college system as set  
10 forth in the Education Trust Fund budget.

11 Section 3. This act shall become effective  
12 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
13 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.