

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Unified Code of Corrections is amended by
5 adding Article 12.5 to Chapter III as follows:

6 (730 ILCS 5/Ch. III Art. 12.5 heading new)

7 ARTICLE 12.5. PRISONER ENTREPRENEUR EDUCATION PROGRAM

8 (730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-1 new)

9 Sec. 3-12.5-1. Short title. This Article may be cited as
10 the Prisoner Entrepreneur Education Program Law.

11 (730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-5 new)

12 Sec. 3-12.5-5. Purpose; Program. The Prisoner Entrepreneur
13 Education Program shall be established as a 5-year pilot
14 project to be instituted within the Department of Corrections.
15 The goal of the Prisoner Entrepreneur Education Program is to
16 provide inmates with useful business skills for use after
17 release from prison in an effort to reduce recidivism rates for
18 self-motivated individuals. The Prisoner Entrepreneur
19 Education Program shall consist of a rigorous curriculum, and
20 participants shall be taught business skills, such as computer
21 skills, budgeting, creating a business plan, public speaking,

1 and realistic goal setting. Inmates who successfully complete
2 the Prisoner Entrepreneur Education Program shall be awarded a
3 Certificate of Completion.

4 (730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-10 new)

5 Sec. 3-12.5-10. Selection. Inmates may be selected to
6 participate in the pre-release Prisoner Entrepreneur Education
7 Program only if all of the following conditions are met:

8 (1) the inmate is within 3 years of being released from
9 custody of the Department of Corrections;

10 (2) the inmate has not been disciplined by the Department
11 of Corrections within the past year;

12 (3) the inmate has a high school diploma or GED;

13 (4) the inmate has never been convicted of an offense
14 described in Subdivision 5 of Article 11 of the Criminal Code
15 of 2012 (major sex offenses), Subdivision 10 of Article 11 of
16 the Criminal Code of 2012 (vulnerable victim sex offenses),
17 Section 11-20.1 of Subdivision 20 of Article 11 of the Criminal
18 Code of 2012 (child pornography offenses), or similar offenses
19 under the Criminal Code of 1961;

20 (5) the inmate is not currently affiliated with a gang; and

21 (6) the inmate is committed to personal change.

22 (730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-11 new)

23 Sec. 3-12.5-11. Curriculum; employment; retention of
24 rights; certificate of completion.

1 (a) The Prisoner Entrepreneur Education Program shall
2 consist of a rigorous curriculum, and participants shall be
3 taught business skills, such as computer skills, budgeting,
4 creating a business plan, public speaking, and realistic goal
5 setting.

6 (b) The curriculum shall not include the employment of
7 participants as employees under the Department of Corrections
8 or any for-profit or not-for-profit organization unless:

9 (1) the employment is reasonably related to the purpose
10 and curriculum of the Prisoner Entrepreneur Education
11 Program; and

12 (2) the participant consents in writing to the terms,
13 provisions, working conditions, and wages of the
14 employment.

15 (c) Participants shall retain rights, control, and
16 possession of all products created by the participant during
17 the course of the Prisoner Entrepreneur Education Program. Such
18 rights shall include intellectual property rights and rights in
19 trade secrets. Nothing in this amendatory Act of the 100th
20 General Assembly shall be construed to give the Department of
21 Corrections any right to sell, use, distribute, market,
22 possess, or otherwise control any product created by a
23 participant during the course of the Prisoner Entrepreneur
24 Education Program, without the participant's written consent.

25 (d) Participants who successfully complete the Prisoner
26 Entrepreneur Education Program shall be awarded a Certificate

1 of Completion.

2 (730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-15 new)

3 Sec. 3-12.5-15. Post-release assistance. Subject to
4 appropriation by the General Assembly, the Prisoner
5 Entrepreneur Education Program may establish post-release
6 assistance to individuals awarded a Certificate of Completion.
7 Post-release assistance may include drafting a resume and cover
8 letter, searching for employment, networking events, or mock
9 interviews.

10 (730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-20 new)

11 Sec. 3-12.5-20. Power of Department. The Department of
12 Corrections shall adopt rules as the Director deems necessary
13 to carry out the purposes of this Article.

14 (730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-25 new)

15 Sec. 3-12.5-25. Funding. The funding for the Prisoner
16 Entrepreneur Education Program shall be subject to
17 appropriation by the General Assembly.

18 (730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-30 new)

19 Sec. 3-12.5-30. Repeal. This Article is repealed 5 years
20 after its effective date.

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
22 becoming law.

1 INDEX

2 Statutes amended in order of appearance

3 730 ILCS 5/Art. Ch. III

4 Art. 12.5 heading new

5 730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-1 new

6 730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-5 new

7 730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-10 new

8 730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-15 new

9 730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-20 new

10 730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-25 new

11 730 ILCS 5/3-12.5-30 new