



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB3818

Introduced 2/17/2023, by Rep. Carol Ammons

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 205/9.43 new

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Requires the Board of Higher Education to establish the Commission on Higher Education in Prison. Provides that the Commission shall be responsible for assisting the Board in implementing and coordinating the recommendations of the Illinois Higher Education in Prison Task Force. Provides that within the first 3 months after its first meeting, the Commission shall identify recommendations to implement, with a minimum of 3 recommendations per year. Provides that any recommendations that are identified shall expand access to quality higher education in prison in this State and propel this State to being a national exemplar in the area. Sets forth provisions concerning Commission membership, meetings, responsibilities, and dissolution.

LRB103 26176 RJT 52535 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

4 Section 5. The Board of Higher Education Act is amended by
5 adding Section 9.43 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 205/9.43 new)

7 Sec. 9.43. Commission on Higher Education in Prison.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Commission" means the Commission on Higher Education in
10 Prison established by this Section.

11 "Higher education in prison" means post-secondary academic
12 education at the undergraduate and graduate level in both
13 community college and university settings.

14 (b) The Board shall establish the Commission on Higher
15 Education in Prison. The Commission shall be responsible for
16 assisting the Board in implementing and coordinating the
17 recommendations of the Illinois Higher Education in Prison
18 Task Force. Within the first 3 months after its first meeting,
19 the Commission shall identify recommendations to implement,
20 with a minimum of 3 recommendations per year. Any
21 recommendations that are identified shall expand access to
22 quality higher education in prison in this State and propel
23 this State to being a national exemplar in the area.

1 (c) The Commission shall be composed of all of the
2 following members:

3 (1) A representative from the Board, appointed by the
4 Board.

5 (2) A representative from the Illinois Community
6 College Board, appointed by the Illinois Community College
7 Board.

8 (3) A representative from the Department of
9 Corrections, appointed by the Director of Corrections.

10 (4) A representative from the Illinois Coalition for
11 Higher Ed in Prison, appointed by the Governor.

12 (5) A representative from the John Howard Association,
13 appointed by the Governor.

14 (6) A representative from the Illinois Student
15 Assistance Commission, appointed by Illinois Student
16 Assistance Commission.

17 (7) One member of the House of Representatives,
18 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
19 one member of the House of Representatives, appointed by
20 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, one
21 member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the
22 Senate, and one member of the Senate, appointed by the
23 Minority Leader of the Senate.

24 (8) Four former students of prison education programs,
25 appointed by the Governor. One of these individuals must
26 have served time in a female-designated facility.

1 (9) Four current or former educators or administrators
2 of State higher education in prison programs, appointed by
3 the Governor.

4 Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

5 (d) Appointment of members to the Commission shall be made
6 within 60 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act
7 of the 103rd General Assembly, with the first meeting of the
8 Commission to be held at a reasonable period of time
9 thereafter. The Commission shall hold at least 6 meetings each
10 year. Additional meetings may be scheduled at the call of the
11 chairperson.

12 (e) From among the Commission's members, a chairperson
13 shall be selected by majority vote of the members during the
14 first meeting of the Commission. The chairperson shall preside
15 for a one-year term. A chairperson may seek reelection to the
16 Commission. A chairperson shall be selected by majority vote
17 every year.

18 (f) The term of membership on the Commission shall be for 3
19 years.

20 (g) The responsibilities of the Commission shall include
21 all of the following:

22 (1) Identifying resources, strategies, and legislative
23 proposals to support the administration and implementation
24 of the Illinois Higher Education in Prison Task Force's
25 recommendations.

26 (2) Exploring the advisability of creating a permanent

1 statewide higher education in prison commission or
2 advising body and making final recommendations to the
3 General Assembly regarding such a body.

4 (3) Ensuring that currently incarcerated individuals
5 have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the
6 work of the Commission on a regular basis and provide
7 critical input about the direction of any statewide policy
8 related to higher education in prison.

9 (4) Presenting, at an annual subject matter hearing,
10 to the General Assembly a report on the Commission's
11 progress and the state of policy and practice in this
12 State. The chairperson of the Commission shall be
13 responsible for fulfilling this obligation. Any
14 accompanying materials shall be made available to the
15 general public on the Board's website.

16 (5) Issuing a final report to the Board, the Governor
17 and the General Assembly. The final report shall capture
18 the full progress of the Commission and how the Commission
19 has fulfilled its responsibilities. This report must be
20 made available to the general public on the Board's
21 website.

22 (h) The Commission members appointed by a State agency
23 shall report back to their respective agency on the progress
24 of the Commission in fulfilling its responsibilities.

25 (i) The Board shall provide administrative and technical
26 support to the Commission and be responsible for administering

1 the Commission's operations and ensuring that the
2 responsibilities of the Commission are met.

3 (j) Upon the release of its final report, the Commission
4 shall be dissolved.