



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB3648

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

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Higher Education in Prison Act. Provides that on or before September 1 of the year following the effective date of the Act and each subsequent September 1, the Department of Corrections shall release a report, to be published on the Department of Corrections's Internet website, detailing certain information pertaining to higher education within Department institutions and facilities. Requires the report to be filed with the Governor and General Assembly. Provides that the data provided in the report shall include an aggregate chart at the Department level and individual reports by each correctional institution or facility of the Department of Corrections. Provides that on or before September 1 of the year following the effective date of the Act and each subsequent September 1, each college and university that provides academic programs for committed persons shall report to the Board of Higher Education on enrollment, retention, completion, and student demographics, including race, ethnicity, age, and gender of committed students. Provides that the Board of Higher Education shall compile the information and, within 60 days after receipt of such information, issue a report reflecting the information for each institution required to report. Provides that the report must be filed with the Governor and General Assembly and made publicly available on the Board of Higher Education's Internet website.

LRB103 26177 RJT 52536 b

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Higher  
5 Education in Prison Act.

6 Section 5. Higher education in prison programs.

7 (a) In this Section, "higher education" means  
8 post-secondary academic education at the undergraduate or  
9 graduate level in a community college or university setting.

10 (b) On or before September 1 of the year following the  
11 effective date of this Act and each subsequent September 1,  
12 the Department of Corrections shall release a report, to be  
13 published on the Department of Corrections's Internet website,  
14 detailing the following information pertaining to higher  
15 education within Department institutions and facilities:

16 (1) the number of unique individuals involved in adult  
17 basic education, high school equivalency, and credit and  
18 non-credit bearing higher education programs over the  
19 course of the fiscal year;

20 (2) the racial, ethnic, age, and gender breakdown of  
21 committed persons participating in higher education  
22 programs;

23 (3) the length of sentence and length of remaining

1 sentence of persons enrolled in higher education programs;

2 (4) the number of committed persons who are on waiting  
3 lists for participation in all educational programs,  
4 including adult basic education, high school equivalency,  
5 and higher education, and the average length of time spent  
6 on each waiting list, including a breakdown by length of  
7 remaining sentence;

8 (5) the total amount of earned program sentence credit  
9 awarded to committed persons for participating in higher  
10 education programs and the percentage of committed persons  
11 participating in higher education programs that are  
12 awarded earned program sentence credit;

13 (6) the number, category, and ultimate resolution of  
14 grievances related to higher education programs;

15 (7) a financial statement that includes annual and  
16 monthly expenditures of Department of Corrections  
17 institutions and facilities on adult basic education, high  
18 school equivalency, and higher education programs; and

19 (8) an explanation of how participation in adult basic  
20 education, high school equivalency, and higher education  
21 programs is factored into a committed persons' risk  
22 assessment score.

23 Personal, identifiable information shall be redacted to  
24 protect privacy.

25 The report must be filed with the Governor and General  
26 Assembly.

1           (c) The data provided in the report under subsection (b)  
2 shall include an aggregate chart at the Department level and  
3 individual reports by each correctional institution or  
4 facility of the Department of Corrections.

5           (d) On or before September 1 of the year following the  
6 effective date of this Act and each subsequent September 1,  
7 each college and university that provides academic programs  
8 for committed persons shall report to the Board of Higher  
9 Education on enrollment, retention, completion, and student  
10 demographics, including the race, ethnicity, age, and gender  
11 of committed students. The Board of Higher Education shall  
12 compile this information and, within 60 days after receipt of  
13 such information, issue a report reflecting the information  
14 for each institution required to report under this Section.  
15 The report must be filed with the Governor and General  
16 Assembly and made publicly available on the Board of Higher  
17 Education's Internet website.