

By: Senator(s) Barnett, Butler

To: Corrections

SENATE BILL NO. 2242  
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-401, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO ESTABLISH AN INMATE WORK PROGRAM WHERE STATE INMATES CAN WORK  
3 FOR THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; TO EMPOWER THE  
4 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY  
5 STANDARDS; TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-547, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
6 AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO WORK WITH MAGCOR IN  
7 IMPLEMENTING THIS PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 47-5-401, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 47-5-401. (1) There is hereby authorized, in each county of  
12 the state, a public service work program for state inmates in  
13 custody of the county. Such a program may be established at the  
14 option of the county in accordance with the provisions of Sections  
15 47-5-401 through 47-5-421. The department shall also recommend  
16 rules and regulations concerning the participation of state  
17 inmates in the program.

18 (2) An inmate shall not be eligible to participate in a work  
19 program established in accordance with the provisions of Sections  
20 47-5-401 through 47-5-421 if he has been convicted of any crime of



21 violence, including, but not limited to, murder, aggravated  
22 assault, rape, robbery or armed robbery.

23 (3) The inmates participating in the work program  
24 established in accordance with the provisions of Sections 47-5-401  
25 through 47-5-421 are restricted to the performance of public  
26 service work for counties, municipalities, the state or nonprofit  
27 charitable organizations, as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the  
28 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, except that the Department of  
29 Corrections must approve all requests by nonprofit charitable  
30 organizations to use offenders to perform any public service work.  
31 Upon request of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of  
32 Higher Learning, or the board of trustees of a county school  
33 district, municipal school district or junior college district,  
34 the inmates may be permitted to perform work for such boards.

35 (4) In addition to any programs established by authority of  
36 subsections (1) through (3) of this section, the Mississippi  
37 Department of Corrections shall establish an inmate work program  
38 under which eligible inmates shall perform services for the  
39 Mississippi Department of Transportation. The Mississippi  
40 Department of Corrections shall adopt rules necessary to implement  
41 the purposes of this act, including those necessary to define  
42 eligibility for participation in the program and inmate  
43 compensation. Such programs shall be established in each  
44 Mississippi Department of Transportation District. The



Mississippi Department of Corrections may work with MAGCOR in implementing this program.

**SECTION 2.** Section 47-5-547, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

47-5-547. (1) Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, any training program or auxiliary program associated with any existing prison industry shall be transferred to the corporation. The corporation is empowered and authorized to establish in participation with any community or junior college or state institution of higher learning, any training or auxiliary program for existing prison industries or for any industries which the corporation might create. Such community or junior college or state institution of higher learning shall provide assistance in business planning, marketing and analysis of existing or projected industries. These industrial services shall be contracted with any appropriate community or junior college or state institution of higher learning when these industries are developed at other correction sites.

(2) The Mississippi Department of Corrections may assign the management and oversight of the work release program established by Section 1 of this act to the prison industries corporation (MAGCOR) if it determines that this will be conducive to providing effective job training for state inmates.

**SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2025.

