

House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 2357

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

9 SECTION 1. (1) A work release program is established at
10 Delta Correctional Facility. The corporation, as defined under
11 Section 47-5-539, shall serve as the program administrator and
12 shall focus on meaningful, skill-oriented, private-sector work
13 opportunities in the surrounding communities. There shall be a
14 limit of one hundred (100) people in the program at a time.

15 (2) No person sentenced for any sex crime or multiple
16 violent felonies in the past ten (10) years shall be eligible for
17 participation in the program established under this section. An
18 inmate shall be eligible for participation in the program
19 beginning three (3) years before her initial parole or earned time
20 release date. The Commissioner of the Department of Corrections
21 shall direct the facility's superintendent to identify eligible
22 participants within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this
23 act.

24 (3) The corporation shall collect and maintain data which
25 shall be shared annually with the Legislature in sortable

electronic format. The first report shall be made before January 15, 2026. The data shall include:

(a) Total number of participants at the beginning of each month by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(b) Total number of participants at the end of each month by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(c) Total number of participants who began the program in each month by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(d) Total number of participants who successfully completed the program in each month by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(e) Total number of participants who left the program in each month and reason for leaving by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(f) Total number of participants who were arrested for a new criminal offense while in the program in each month by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(g) Total number of participants who were convicted of a new crime while in the program in each month by race, gender, and offenses charged;

(h) Total number of participants who completed the program and were convicted of a new crime within three (3) years of completing the program;

(i) Total amount earned by participants and how the earnings were distributed in each month;

51 (j) Results of any initial risk and needs assessments
52 conducted on each participant by race, gender, and offenses
53 charged; and

54 (k) Any other data or information as requested by the
55 task force.

56 (4) Any person who has been sentenced to confinement in jail
57 or who has been sentenced for a felony conviction but is confined
58 in a jail may request assignment to the pilot program established
59 under this section. Admission to the program shall be in the
60 discretion of the superintendent of the facility. The
61 superintendent may further authorize the offender to participate
62 in educational or other rehabilitative programs designed to
63 supplement his work release employment or to prepare the person
64 for successful reentry. No offender shall be eligible for this
65 program if such offender has more than one (1) year remaining on
66 her sentence.

67 (5) The superintendent shall adopt and publish rules and
68 regulations prior to accepting inmates. These rules and
69 regulations shall at a minimum include all requirements for work
70 release programs established pursuant to Sections 47-5-451 through
71 47-5-471. Participating employers shall pay no less than the
72 prevailing wage for the position and shall under no circumstance
73 pay less than the federal minimum wage.

74 (6) Any offender assigned to such a program by the
75 superintendent who, without proper authority or just cause, leaves
76 the area to which she has been assigned to work or attend

77 educational or other rehabilitative programs, or leaves the
78 vehicle or route of travel involved in her going to or returning
79 from such place, will be guilty of escape as provided in Section
80 97-9-49. An offender who is found guilty under this section shall
81 be ineligible for further participation in a work release program
82 during her current term of confinement.

83 (7) (a) The offender shall maintain an account through a
84 local financial institution and shall provide a copy of a check
85 stub to the sheriff.

86 (b) The offender shall be required to pay his or her
87 wages earned as a participant under the programs for the following
88 purposes:

89 (i) To pay support of dependents or to the
90 Mississippi Department of Human Services on behalf of dependents
91 as may be ordered by a judge of competent jurisdiction, as well as
92 court-ordered fees and costs included in a child support order.
93 The Mississippi Department of Human Services shall be authorized
94 to administratively modify the existing child support order
95 against the participant to account for the participant's income
96 under the program.

97 (ii) To pay twenty percent (20%) toward any
98 support of dependents or to the Mississippi Department of Human
99 Services on behalf of dependents as may be ordered by a judge of
100 competent jurisdiction as well as fines, restitution, or costs as
101 ordered by the court to include any fines and fees associated with
102 obtaining a valid driver's license upon release.

(iii) To save fifty percent (50%) of the offender's wages in the account required under paragraph (a) of this subsection. Monies under this subparagraph shall be made available to the offender upon parole or release.

(iv) To pay up to twenty percent (20%) of the offender's wages to the facility for administrative expenses to include transportation costs.

(v) The offender shall have access to the remaining ten percent (10%) of the monies in her account to purchase incidental expenses.

(c) Any monies remaining under paragraph (a) of this subsection after all mandatory deductions are paid, shall be deposited in the inmate's account established under this subsection. Any monies remaining under this subsection, upon the release of the inmate, shall be released to the inmate upon her release.

(8) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2029.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A WORK RELEASE PROGRAM AT DELTA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; TO PROVIDE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INMATES WHO MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN STATISTICAL DATA BE REPORTED TO THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT INMATES WHO ARE WORK PARTICIPANTS SHALL UTILIZE THEIR WAGES FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

HR26\SB2357A.J

Andrew Ketchings
Clerk of the House of Representatives