



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1678

PRINTER'S NO. 2812

PRIME SPONSOR: N. Nelson

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

### SUMMARY:

Establishes the Earned Vocational Training and Education Credit to allow state inmates to earn vocational and educational credits against their minimum sentence to make them eligible for parole earlier than they would otherwise be.

### ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1678 allows for inmates under the supervision of the Department of Corrections to earn vocational training and education credits. These credits would count towards reducing their sentence, making them eligible for parole or short sentence parole earlier than they would otherwise be based on the following schedule:

Activity	Credit
Regular participation in any inmate education or vocational training services	10 days per month, up to an amount not to exceed 90 days per program
Completion of a vocational education program	90 days
Attaining a General Education Development (GED)	90 days
Attaining a High School Diploma	120 days
Attaining a degree from an institution of higher education	180 days

The legislation stipulates that an inmate may not earn credits in excess of one-fourth of their minimum sentence. The legislation further provides a list of offenses that individuals convicted of would not be eligible to earn credits.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation will likely represent a savings to the Commonwealth due to the lower cost of supervising an individual on parole. The cost to supervise a parolee is \$11.46 per day versus \$44.12 per day to incarcerate an individual at the marginal rate. The total cost savings would be a function of the number of individuals released to parole supervision and the reduction in their sentences.

Currently, data are not available to provide a reliable estimate of these savings, and any final cost savings would depend not only on parole eligibility, but on the individual being granted parole.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

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*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*