

SESSION OF 2025

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2327**

As Amended by House Committee on  
Corrections and Juvenile Justice

**Brief\***

HB 2327, as amended, would direct the Secretary of Corrections (Secretary) to issue a Certificate of Employability (Certificate) to an inmate upon their release from custody if they meet certain criteria.

***Certificate of Employability Issuance***

The bill would direct the Secretary to make all inmates aware of the opportunity to obtain a Certificate, and confirm issuance of a Certificate, upon request.

The bill would direct the Secretary to issue a Certificate to an inmate if:

- Prior to incarceration or while incarcerated, they earned one of the following education credentials or certifications:
  - A high school diploma;
  - A general educational development (GED) credential;
  - A college degree;
  - Certification from a vocational or technical education program; or
  - A diploma or degree from a correspondence postsecondary education program;

---

\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

- They received no major disciplinary violations during the year immediately before their release; and
- They received a required score on a jobs skills assessment test determined by the secretary.

#### *Revocation of a Certificate*

The bill would direct the Secretary to revoke a Certificate issued to an inmate if they are convicted of a felony after release from custody. The bill would provide such revocation may be appealed with the Secretary, and that the Secretary would not be liable for damages based on the Secretary's decision to issue, deny, or revoke a Certificate.

#### *Annual Report*

The bill would direct the Secretary to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate by January 15 each year, with the first report by January 15, 2026.

The bill would require the report to include the number of Certificates issued in the preceding year and the rate of recidivism among inmates who received a Certificate.

#### *Rules and Regulations*

The bill would authorize the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of the act.

#### ***Negligent Hiring—Employer***

The bill would permit a Certificate issued under the bill's provisions to be admitted as evidence of an employer's due care in hiring an inmate in a proceeding against that employer for negligent hiring.

### ***Misrepresentation of Issuance of a Certificate***

The bill would prohibit an inmate from stating or representing themselves as having a valid Certificate while knowing such statement or representation is false. The bill would make a violation of this prohibition a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

### **Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice at the request of Representative Lewis.

### ***House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice***

In the House Committee hearing, a representative of the Reason Foundation offered **proponent** testimony, stating that gainful, stable employment is a key factor to effective reintegration of people released from prison and that this bill would create a “Certificate of Employability” that may serve as evidence of due care in hiring in cases where an employer is accused of negligent hiring.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to remove a provision allowing a possible legal defense for employers who have been sued for negligent hiring after relying on a Certificate issued under the bill’s provisions.

### **Fiscal Information**

A fiscal note was not available at the time the House Committee took action on the bill.

Secretary of Corrections; Certificate of employability; crimes