

CHAPTER 285

(Senate Bill 564)

AN ACT to add new Section 700A to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1962 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments", sub-title "III. Places of Reformation and Punishment", subheading "Department of Correction—Prisoners", to follow immediately after Section 700 thereof, providing for the establishment and administration of a "work release" program by the Department of Correction for certain prisoners confined in institutions under its jurisdiction.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 700A be and it is hereby added to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1962 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments", sub-title "III. Places of Reformation and Punishment", subheading "Department of Correction—Prisoners", to follow immediately after Section 700 thereof, and to read as follows:

700A.

(a) *The Department of Correction is authorized and directed to establish a "work release" program under which prisoners sentenced to terms of not more than five years in an institution under the jurisdiction of said Department may be granted the privilege of leaving actual confinement during necessary and reasonable hours for the purpose of working at gainful private employment in this State. Such program may also include, under appropriate conditions, release for the purpose of seeking such employment.*

(b) *A prisoner eligible to participate in the "work release" program in accordance with the preceding subsection may make application to the Warden or Superintendent of the institution in which he is confined for permission to participate in such program. The application shall include a statement by the prisoner that he agrees to abide by all terms and conditions of the particular plan adopted for him by the Commissioner of Correction if such application is approved, shall state the name and address of the proposed employer, if any, and shall contain such other information as the Department or the Commissioner may require. The Warden or Superintendent may, in his discretion, recommend such application to the Commissioner. The Commissioner may approve, disapprove, or defer action on said recommendation. In the event of approval the Commissioner shall adopt a "work release plan" for such prisoner which shall contain such terms and conditions as may be necessary and proper; and such plan shall be signed by the prisoner prior to his participation in the program. At any time after approval has been granted, it may be revoked for any reason by the Commissioner.*

(c) *The Department shall designate and adopt facilities in the institutions and camps under its jurisdiction for the housing of prisoners granted "work release" privileges. In areas where such facilities are not within reasonable proximity of the place of employment of a prisoner so released, the Department may contract with the proper authorities of political subdivisions of this State for the quartering of such prisoner in suitable local confinement facilities. In the "work release" plan of any prisoner, the Commissioner shall include as a*