

645.

(a) Authority to Assign Prisoners to Farm Labor; Terms and Conditions.—The [sheriffs of the respective counties] *Superintendents of the respective county detention centers* shall have authority to assign able-bodied male prisoners in the respective county jails to perform farm labor, as hereinafter defined, upon the following terms and conditions:

(1) Such assignment may be made only after the written request of some person or persons desiring to employ farm labor, which request shall show to the satisfaction of the respective [sheriff] *Superintendent of the county detention center* that such labor is not otherwise obtainable.

(2) All costs incident to such an assignment including the costs of transportation of such prisoners to and from the respective jails, a reasonable per diem wage for the prisoner or prisoners performing such farm labor and the cost of properly guarding said prisoner while performing said labor shall be borne by the person or persons making such request, and the respective [sheriffs] *Superintendent of the county detention center* may require such proof of financial responsibility, including a payment in advance as they may deem advisable.

(3) All and any liability for injuries to such prisoners while being transported to or from such jails or while performing such work shall be assumed by the person or persons making such request.

(4) Such assignments shall be made on a daily basis only and such prisoners so assigned shall be returned to the respective county jails each night.

(5) Such other terms and conditions as the respective [sheriff] *Superintendent of the detention center* may deem advisable.

(b) Reimbursement for expenses.—The respective county [commissioners] *councils* are hereby required to reimburse the [sheriff] *Superintendent of the detention center* out of the county fund for any expenses he may be put to in conveying the said prisoners to and from such farm or other similar place, or in properly guarding the said prisoners while performing such farm labor under such regulations as the [sheriff] *Superintendent of the detention center* or other officer may deem necessary for their health and safe custody.

(c) "Farm labor" defined.—"Farm labor," as used in this section shall mean the work of rendering any agricultural service, including the threshing or harvesting of crops and the production of any agricultural, horticultural, vegetable or fruit product of the soil, live-stock, meats, marine food products, eggs, dairy products, wool, nuts, honey, and every product of farm, forest, garden, orchard or water, and any such services as are generally regarded as incidental to and connected with farms, dairies and the seafood industry.

(d) *Escaping from "Farm Labor"*—If any prisoner released from actual confinement under a "farm labor" plan shall escape or otherwise go at large he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 139 of Article 27.

[d] (e) *Applicable only to Anne Arundel County*—This section shall only apply in Anne Arundel County.