

[639A.

(1) A District Court judge in Queen Anne's County may direct that any person sentenced by him to a period of confinement in the county jail be granted the privilege of leaving actual confinement during necessary and reasonable hours for the purpose of working at gainful private employment. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the release of a prisoner for any other purpose or at any time other than that during which he is actually employed or actually going to or from his place of employment.

(2) The Department of Parole and Probation shall determine the time actually necessary for a prisoner to go to and from his place of employment and to perform the duties required of him as an employee. Prior to any release pursuant to this section, a prisoner shall sign an agreement to return to the county jail at the time so determined by the Department (to be specified by hour in the agreement) or immediately after his work is over, whichever is earlier, and in any event to return directly to the jail following the termination of his daily employment; to enter no vehicle or building except in the ordinary course of his employment; to surrender his total earnings as provided in subsection (3) of this section; to have no alcoholic beverages in his possession at any time; to bring no object into the jail without the express permission of the Sheriff or a deputy sheriff; and to observe such other conditions as may be deemed proper and designated in the agreement by the District Court judge. A prisoner released from actual confinement who wilfully fails to return to the county jail at the time specified in such agreement shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to the penalties provided for escape in Article 27, § 139, of this Code. A prisoner released from actual confinement who violates any other condition of such agreement shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to an additional term of imprisonment in the county jail of not more than six months.

(3) A prisoner employed pursuant to this section shall surrender to the Department of Parole and Probation his total earnings, less payroll deductions required by law. The Department shall deduct and disburse from such earnings, in the following order of priority: (i) the cost to the county of providing food and lodging for such prisoner, (ii) the actual and necessary food, travel and other expenses of such prisoner when released from actual confinement in connection with his employment, (iii) any fines and costs imposed by the District Court, (iv) such amount as the prisoner may be legally obligated to pay for the support of his dependents. Any balance remaining after such deductions and disbursements shall be paid to the prisoner upon his final release.