

LAWS OF DELAWARE
VOLUME 83
CHAPTER 185
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORMERLY
SENATE BILL NO. 68

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend Chapter 89, Title 29 of the Delaware Code by creating a new Subchapter III before § 8926 by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

Subchapter III. Department Employees.

Section 2. Amend § 8926, Title 29 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 8926. ~~Correctional Officer~~ Department Employee Education Assistance Fund.

(a) Any ~~correctional officer~~ employee of the Department holding ~~the rank of Captain~~ a position classified at paygrade 15 or below may avail themselves of the provisions of this ~~aet section~~ to prepay the tuition costs for higher education related to their position.

(b) The classes will be 100% prepaid by the Department upon application to the Human Resources Director of the Department prior to commencement of classes at a college or university within the State for classes related to corrections, public safety, criminal justice, ~~psychology~~ psychology, or sociology or related fields. Related fields ~~shall~~ include any courses necessary to complete a degree program in Criminal Justice, Corrections, Public Safety, ~~Psychology~~ Psychology, or Sociology. ~~Correctional officers~~ Department employees who work in the food service, ~~mechanical~~ mechanical, or building trades and maintenance area ~~shall be~~ are eligible for prepayment for classes that relate to their field or trade. The ~~officer~~ employee must maintain a C average or better in the classes taken to remain eligible for this program.

(c)(1) The Department shall take the funds appropriated for this section in each fiscal year and allocate them as follows:

- a. 40% for the fall ~~semester~~; semester.
- b. 40% for the spring ~~semester~~; and semester.
- c. 20% for the summer semester.

(2) The Department shall establish a deadline date for applying for said funds. If there are more applications than funds for any semester, then the funds shall be prorated between the applications. If there are ~~less~~ fewer funding applications than funds available, the Department shall roll excess funds ~~shall be rolled~~ over to the next semester.

(d) An ~~officer~~ employee who has received funding ~~pursuant to~~ under this section but who is terminated from the Department for cause prior to completion of current vouchered courses or who otherwise fails to comply with any requirement of this section ~~shall~~ immediately ~~become~~ becomes ineligible to receive education benefits ~~pursuant to~~ under this section and shall repay the Department for all tuition and fee funding previously extended to the ~~officer~~, employee, including interest, on a pro rata basis from the time of termination or noncompliance. The Commissioner shall adopt appropriate procedures to determine the amount of repayment and the method of collection due by the ~~officer~~ employee ~~pursuant to~~ under this subsection. If an employee voluntarily leaves the Department prior to completion of funded courses, the ~~officer~~ employee will not be required to repay previously funded tuition but will have to repay the current quarter or semester's tuition.

Approved September 17, 2021