



**153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL: SENATE BILL NO. 309
AS AMENDED BY: SENATE AMENDMENT NO. 1
SPONSOR: Senator Seigfried
DESCRIPTION: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO WORK BY INMATES.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act removes the Department of Correction's (DOC) authority to deduct pay from inmate accounts for a proportionate share of incarceration-related costs, including room, board, medical care, legal services, prison education, training, library services, counseling and treatment services, religious services, and other programs and services.
3. According to the DOC, room and board fees are currently assessed to Level IV residents participating in work release programs. The room and board fee schedule is as follows:
 - a. \$25.00 per week for full-time employed residents.
 - b. \$15.00 per week for part-time employed residents.
 - c. \$5.00 per day for temporary employment, not to exceed \$25.00 per week.
4. Revenues generated through these collections are deposited into the General Fund (GF). Over the past three years, fees associated with room and board have generated between \$36,339 and \$43,725 annually. As of April 30, 2026, \$20,080 has been collected for Fiscal Year 2026. For this fiscal projection, the average of \$40,356 is assumed to be a GF revenue loss annually by eliminating fees for room and board.
5. This Act discharges all balances owed by individuals. According to the DOC, as of March 31, 2026, the outstanding balance of uncollected room and board fees is approximately \$175,894. While the Department reports outstanding unpaid balances, those amounts are not currently reflected as realized General Fund revenues. As a result, the discharge of such balances is not anticipated to materially impact General Fund revenues.

Cost:

	<u>General Fund Revenue Loss</u>
Fiscal Year 2027:	\$40,356
Fiscal Year 2028:	\$40,356
Fiscal Year 2029:	\$40,356

Prepared by Kiley Thomson
Office of the Controller General