



|| SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 525 Printer's No. 472

Prime Sponsor: Senator Greenleaf
Committee: Judiciary

SYNOPSIS:

This bill amends Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) to authorize joint ventures between correctional institutions and private industry.

SUMMARY:

This bill enables the Department of Corrections to be exempt from federal labor laws governing prisoner-made goods in interstate commerce. The Department of Corrections will be permitted to enter into contracts with private businesses and nonprofit organizations that will employ prisoners to perform designated work. Prisoners will be compensated at the same rate that similar workers in the region are paid. Paycheck deductions will be made for taxes, family support, court costs, fines, and restitution.

In order to avoid the displacement of unemployed or underemployed Pennsylvanians from the work force, a Prison Industry Enhancement Authority will be created and local unions and the Department of Labor and Industry will be consulted with regard to each contract.

Effective Date: This bill is effective in ninety days.

BILL HISTORY:

This bill was reported out of the Judiciary Committee in a previous session. There is no bill history during this legislative session.

Prepared by: Patrick Cawley 2/26/2015