



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

HOUSE BILL 463: Education/Job Readiness in Prisons & Jails.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Education/Higher Education. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations/Base Budget. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	June 10, 2020
Introduced by:	Reps. Rogers, Brody, Hardister, John	Prepared by:	Brian Gwyn*
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *The 2nd edition of House Bill 463 would allow funds appropriated for community college courses for prison inmates to be used for Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of General Education degrees. Additionally, it would allow community colleges to earn FTE for courses taught in local jails.*

CURRENT LAW: Section 8.3 of S.L. 2010-31 provides that funds appropriated for community college courses for prison inmates must be used only for inmates in State prisons, not federal prisons or local jails. These funds cannot be used for Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of General Education degrees.

Until 2019, Section 8.3 of S.L. 2010-31 also prohibited courses taught in federal prisons and local jails from earning regular budget full-time equivalencies (FTE), though they could be offered on a self-supporting basis. Section 3.4 of S.L. 2019-235 modified S.L. 2010-31 to allow courses taught in local jails to earn regular budget FTE beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year.

G.S. 115D-5(c), as amended by S.L. 2019-235, requires that courses provided at State expense to any captive group of students must be approved by the State Board of Community Colleges. All courses approved for State prison inmates or prisoners in local jails must be tied to clearly identified job skills, transition needs, or both. A course taught without this approval will not yield any FTE.

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 463 would remove the restriction that prohibits funds from being used for Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of General Education degrees. HB 463 would also allow courses taught in local jails to earn regular budget FTE, if the courses are approved by the State Board, beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective July 1, 2019.

**Samantha Yarborough, staff attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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