
DIGEST

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HB 458 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Knox

Abstract: Provides relative to inmates who participate in work release programs.

Present law provides relative to work release programs.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides for the establishment and administration of work release programs for certain purposes.

Present law provides that every inmate with work release privileges is liable for the costs of his room, board, clothing and other necessary expenses incident to his employment or placement.

Proposed law amends present law to remove the reference to liability of cost for clothing and other necessary expenses incident to the inmate's employment or placement and provides that every inmate who participates in a work release program may be assessed a reasonable cost for room and board, subject to the restrictions provided in proposed law.

Proposed law prohibits the total amount assessed for room and board from exceeding 33% of the inmate's gross wages that are earned through a work release program. Further prohibits any additional per diem or related charge beyond the amount provided in proposed law.

Present law requires the sheriff to disburse the wages of an inmate for certain purposes and in a particular order.

Proposed law amends present law to change the disbursements as follows:

- (1) From the board of the inmate that includes food, clothing, medical, and dental expenses to an assessment for room and board, not to exceed 33% the inmate's gross wages.
- (2) From necessary travel expenses to and from work and other incidental expenses of the inmate to necessary travel expenses to and from work and other expenses related to documented employment.
- (3) From payment of the inmate's legal obligations to payment of any court-ordered restitution or legally recognized obligations.

- (4) From any balance to the inmate upon his discharge to the remaining balance, payable directly to the inmate on a regular basis, and not subject to any withholding except as provided in present law.

Proposed law provides that after receiving the disbursements provided in proposed law, the inmate retains the remaining portion of his earned wages. Further prohibits the assessment of any additional per diem, administrative fee, or supplemental housing charge beyond the total amount provided in proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 15:711)