



Councilmember Vincent Bernard Orange, Sr.

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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To require the Department of Employee Services and the Department of Small and Local Business Development to establish and provide for the maintenance of the Incarceration to Incorporation Entrepreneurship Program to educate, train, and assist returning citizens in becoming socially responsible entrepreneurs, and to require the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity to establish the Incarceration to Incorporation Fund.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “District of Columbia Incarceration to Incorporation Entrepreneurship Program Act of 2015”.

Sec. 2. Incarceration to Incorporation program requirements.

(a) The Department of Employee Services (“DOES”) and the Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) shall establish the Incarceration to Incorporation Entrepreneurship Program (“IIEP”), a business development program for returning citizens that:

(1) Invests in for-profit and non-profit businesses owned, operated, or managed by returning citizens;

(2) Provides a fast-track GED program;

(3) Provides classes to improve math, reading and writing abilities;

(4) Provides business training including accounting, finance,

1 administration, business planning, budgeting, marketing;

2 (5) Provides business-themed educational workshops and seminars;

3 (6) Provides scholarships and/or grants for returning citizens to enroll in
4 business classes at the University of the District of Columbia (“UDC”) and the University of the
5 District of Columbia Community College (“UDCCC”); and

6 (7) Establish an IIEP fund.

7 Sec. 3. IIEP Fund.

8 (a) There is established the IIEP Fund (“Fund”), which shall be administered by the
9 Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity in accordance subsection (c) of
10 this section.

11 (b) The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity shall maintain a
12 ten million dollar (\$10,000,000) fund for the IIEP that shall be used to implement and promote
13 the IIEP.

14 (c) Revenue from the following sources shall be deposited into the IIEP Fund:

15 (1) Funds appropriated for the purposes of this act;

16 (2) Donations from the public;

17 (3) Donations from private entities; and

18 (4) Funds provided through a sponsorship agreement.

19 (d) Money in the Fund shall be used to implement, operate, and administer the IIEP
20 program.

21 (e)(1) The money deposited into the IIEP Fund, and interest earned, shall not revert to
22 the unrestricted fund balance of the General Fund of the District of Columbia at the end of a
23 fiscal year, or at any other time.

1 (2) Subject to authorization in an approved budget and financial plan, any funds
2 appropriated in the Fund shall be continually available without regard to fiscal year limitation.

3 Sec. 4. Reporting requirements.

4 (a) Within one year of the law's applicability date, and by June 1 every year thereafter,
5 the Department of Employment Services ("DOES") shall report on the operations of the IIEP to
6 the Mayor and the Council.

7 (b) DOES shall confer with other agencies such as the:

8 (1) Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity;

9 (2) Department of Small and Local Business Development;

10 (3) Workforce Investment Council; and

11 (4) Any other relevant agency and/or organization that DOES considers necessary
12 to complete the objectives of this act.

13 (c) The report shall include, at a minimum:

14 (1) The profiles of the IIEP participants;

15 (2) Recidivism rates of the IIEP participants; and

16 (3) Recommendations on how to improve the IIEP and ensure its sustainability.

17 Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

18 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
19 impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,
20 approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(3)).

21 Sec. 6. Effective date.

22 This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of a veto by the
23 Mayor, override of the veto by the Council, a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided
24

1 in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973
2 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia
3 Register.