

118th CONGRESS
2nd Session

H. R. XXXX

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[Date]

Mr./Ms. [Name of the Representative] introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on [Committee Name].

A BILL

To establish a program for the training, rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners through income sharing agreements, reduce prison costs, increase police funding, and contribute to the modernization of the incarcerated portion of the federal workforce.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “**Rehabilitative Income Sharing Agreement Act of 2024**”.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

1. Violent crime rates are a significant concern for the safety and well-being of American citizens.

2. The current prison system is costly and contributes to the national debt, with insufficient capabilities for effective rehabilitation and reintegration.
3. The inability of ex-convicts to find employment post-incarceration is a major cause of recidivism.
4. Technological advancements in scalable low- to no-cost online courseware and the rise of the freelance economy provide an opportunity to rehabilitate prisoners and reintegrate them into society at low initial cost.

SECTION 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REHABILITATIVE INCOME SHARING AGREEMENT (RISA) PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment of Program. The Secretary of the Department of Justice shall establish the Rehabilitative Income Sharing Agreement (RISA) program to provide educational, vocational, and moral training to prisoners and facilitate their reintegration into society.

(b) Subsidiarity Clause. Any duties, responsibilities, or tasks necessary for the implementation of this Act shall, whenever feasible, be executed by private individuals or entities. Should these duties, responsibilities, or tasks be beyond the capacity of private individuals or entities, they shall be undertaken by the local government. If the local government is unable to fulfill these duties, responsibilities, or tasks, they shall be undertaken by the state government. Only when these duties, responsibilities, or tasks cannot be fulfilled by private individuals, entities, local government, or state government shall they be executed by the federal government.

(c) Voluntary Participation.

1. **Voluntary Enrollment.** Participation in the RISA program shall be voluntary for prisoners.
2. **Informed Consent.** Prisoners shall be provided with full information about the benefits and commitments of the RISA program, enabling them to make an informed decision about their participation.
3. **Rationale for Participation.** Prisoners are encouraged to participate in the program as it offers significant advantages, including:
 - (a) The opportunity to gain valuable skills and education that enhance future employment prospects.
 - (b) The ability to earn income while incarcerated, which can be used to reduce the costs of their confinement and support themselves or their families.

- (c) A pathway to reintegration into society with a stable source of income and a reduced likelihood of recidivism.
- (d) The prospect of earning income at a rate approximately two or three times the typical prison pay rate, which serves as an incentive for prisoners to enroll in the program, thereby increasing their productive output and maximizing their financial contributions to America.

(d) Program Components. The RISA program shall consist of the following components:

1. Educational and Vocational Training.

- (a) Prisoners shall be enrolled in training and educational programs delivered primarily via online courseware.
- (b) Courses shall include basic education, vocational training, civics, self-discipline, and moral instruction.
- (c) Training shall focus on remote work careers, for example, web development, graphic design, sales, computer programming and any other computer-based work and other high-demand fields.

2. Maximizing Productive Capacity.

- (a) The program shall ensure that prisoners, particularly those with specialized skills or professional expertise (e.g., in law, finance, or technology), are provided with opportunities to work at their full productive capacity.
- (b) Instead of engaging in low-skill labor, such prisoners may be assigned tasks that match their professional background, such as providing legal services, financial consulting, or other high-value work, which maximizes the revenue generated for the purposes of paying off their confinement costs and contributing to law enforcement funding and modernization of the incarcerated portion of the federal workforce using advanced robotics and other automation technologies.
- (c) In addition to the many opportunities available in online freelance marketplaces, the Department of Justice shall establish partnerships with public sector agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private entities to create opportunities for prisoners to apply their professional skills in a way that benefits society and fulfills the program's financial objectives.

3. Income Generation.

- (a) Upon reaching sufficient skill levels, prisoners shall be assigned freelance tasks relevant to their training, with communication between the prisoner and the client controlled by a designated manager within the prison system.
- (b) Earnings from these tasks shall be applied as follows:

- i. A substantial portion shall be allocated to the cost of the prisoner's confinement.
- ii. A remaining portion, approximately in the amount of two or three times the typical prison pay rate of that facility, shall be placed into an account for the prisoner's use upon release, or for the benefit of their family.

4. **Post-Release Income Sharing.**

- (a) After release, prisoners who participated in the RISA program shall continue to share a portion of their income at a substantially reduced amount.
- (b) This income shall be allocated as follows:
 - i. Repayment of any outstanding confinement costs.
 - ii. Contribution to the funding of police training and operational costs.
 - iii. Payment toward modernization of the incarcerated portion of the federal workforce.
 - iv. Reinvestment in the RISA program, including covering initial costs of computers and instructor time.
- (c) Income sharing shall cease once the confinement costs have been paid in full twice or thrice, as determined by the Secretary of Justice.

5. **Reintegration Support.**

- (a) The RISA program shall provide support to ensure that former prisoners find and maintain employment, with an emphasis on online freelance work where a criminal record does not present a barrier to entry.

SECTION 4. FUNDING.

(a) Initial Investment. The Secretary of Justice shall allocate funds for the initial purchase of necessary equipment, such as computers, and for the training of instructors. Private entities or individuals may be invited to provide these resources as a first option under the Subsidiarity Clause.

(b) Program Sustainability. Funds recovered from post-release income sharing under the RISA program shall be used to:

1. Reimburse the initial investment.
2. Pay for ongoing operational costs of the program.
3. Fund police training and other law enforcement costs.
4. Contribute to automation of the incarcerated portion of the federal workforce.

SECTION 5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Annual Report. The Secretary of Justice shall submit an annual report to Congress detailing:

1. The number of prisoners enrolled in the RISA program.
2. The cost savings achieved through the program.
3. The amount contributed to police funding and automation of the incarcerated portion of the federal workforce.
4. Recidivism rates of program participants compared to the general prison population.
5. The level of involvement of private entities, local, and state governments in implementing the program.

SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) Effective Date. This Act shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment.

(b) Regulations. The Secretary of Justice shall issue such regulations as necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, in accordance with the Subsidiarity Clause.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 8. SUNSET PROVISION.

This Act shall be reviewed by Congress five years after its enactment to assess its impact and effectiveness. Congress may reauthorize, amend, or repeal the Act based on this review.