
**Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
Committee**

HB 1613

Brief Description: Regarding providing eyeglasses to medicaid enrollees.

Sponsors: Representatives Warnick and Reykdal.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes licensed health professions to purchase eyeglasses for enrollees of the state medical program from the Department of Corrections' class II Correctional Industries program.

Hearing Date: 2/11/11

Staff: Yvonne Walker (786-7841).

Background:

The Department of Corrections (DOC) provides inmate work programs through the Correctional Industries Board (Board). The Board develops and implements programs that offer inmates employment, work experience and training, and that reduce the cost of housing inmates. To achieve these goals, the Board operates five classes of correctional industry work programs. All inmates working in class I - IV employment receive financial compensation for their work. Class V jobs are court ordered community work that is preformed for the benefit of the community without financial compensation.

Class II Industries. Class II ("tax reduction") industries are state-owned and operated industries designed to reduce the costs for goods and services for public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Industries in this class must be closely patterned after private sector industries but with the objective of reducing public support costs rather than making a profit. The products and services of this industry, including purchased products and services necessary for a complete product line, may only be sold to: (1) public agencies; (2) nonprofit organizations; (3) private

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contractors when the goods purchased will ultimately be used by a public agency or a nonprofit organization; (4) an employee and immediate family members of an employee of the DOC; and (5) a person under the supervision of the DOC. However, to avoid waste or spoilage, by-products and surpluses of timber, agricultural, and animal husbandry enterprises may be sold at private sale or donated to non-profit organizations when there is no public sector market for such goods.

Inmates working in tax reduction industries do so at their own choice and are paid a gratuity which cannot exceed the wage paid for work of a similar nature in the locality in which the industry is located. Class II gratuities range from 55 cents to \$1.55 per hour and includes such jobs as: producing aluminum signs, license plates and tabs, mattresses, asbestos abatement, meat processing, "optical lab," engraving, furniture manufacturing, screen printing and embroidery, industrial sewing, and laundry. Security and custody services are provided without charge by the DOC.

Summary of Bill:

Licensed health professional are authorized to purchase eyeglasses from the DOC's class II Correctional Industries program for the sole purpose of providing the products to enrollees of the state medical program at no more than the health professional's cost of acquisition.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.