

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: CS/HB 195 TITLE: Education in Correctional Facilities for Licensed Professions SPONSOR(S): Chambliss and Plakon	COMPANION BILL: CS/SB 472 (Truenow) LINKED BILLS: None RELATED BILLS: None
FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 115 Y's 0 N's	GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Pending

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to coordinate with the relevant professional boards regulated by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), or DBPR when there is no board, to ensure that inmates who successfully complete classes that are required for licensure in such professions will receive credit towards licensure.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact to DOC and DBPR in developing the plan required by the bill. However, the cost of implementing the bill will likely be absorbed within existing resources. To the extent that the bill allows more inmates to meet educational requirements for professional licensure while incarcerated, the bill may provide inmates with the opportunity to be licensed by DBPR regulated professional boards more quickly upon their release.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

CS/HB 195 passed as [CS/SB 472](#).

The bill requires the [Correctional Education Program](#) within the Department of Corrections (DOC) to design and implement a plan, in conjunction with the relevant professional boards regulated by the [Department of Business and Professional Regulation](#) (DBPR), or DBPR when there is no board, to ensure that inmates who successfully complete classes that meet the curriculum requirements for professional licensure receive credit towards applicable DBPR licensure requirements. (Section [1](#))

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2025. (Section [2](#))

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

STATE GOVERNMENT:

The bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact on state government by requiring DOC to coordinate with the relevant professional boards or DBPR to ensure that inmates receive credit towards professional licensure for successfully completing vocational courses. However, the cost of implementing the bill will likely be absorbed within existing resources.

PRIVATE SECTOR:

By improving coordination of vocational education programs and professional licensure requirements, the bill may have an indeterminate economic impact on the private sector by allowing more inmates to meet educational requirements for licensure while incarcerated. As such, the bill may provide inmates with the opportunity to be licensed by DBPR regulated professional boards more quickly upon their release.

STORAGE NAME: h0195z

DATE: 5/2/2025

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Correctional Education Program

The Correctional Education Program (CEP) within the Department of Corrections (DOC) provides educational programming to inmates in state correctional facilities.¹ The duties of the CEP, in part, include:

- Developing guidelines for collecting education-related information during the inmate reception process and disseminating such information to DOC classification staff.
- Monitoring and assessing all inmate education program services.
- Approving educational programs of the appropriate levels and types in correctional institutions and developing admission procedures for such programs.
- Developing a written procedure for selecting programs to add to or delete from the vocational curriculum and periodically reevaluating such programs.²

The CEP provides 92 career and technical education courses in 37 vocational trades that are aligned to Florida's in-demand occupations.³ Career and technical education courses vary by facility and may include education relating to barbering, cosmetology, electrical contracting, landscaping, plumbing, and HVAC contracting.⁴

Department of Business and Professional Regulation

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) regulates and licenses specified businesses and professionals in Florida.⁵ DBPR provides administrative support to professional boards that are responsible for the licensure of applicants, promulgation of rules governing the applicable profession, and the discipline of a licensee.⁶ Examples of relevant professional boards under DBPR include the Barbers' Board, the Construction Industry Licensing Board, the Board of Cosmetology, and the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board.⁷

CS/HB 133 (2024)

CS/HB 133, which was passed by the Legislature during the 2024 legislative session and subsequently vetoed, would have made the following changes to the licensing requirements for barbers and cosmetologists. The bill:

- Prohibited applicable DBPR boards from denying a barber or cosmetology license for a conviction or other adjudication that was more than three years before the date of the application for licensure unless the applicant was convicted of a crime at any time during the three-year period preceding the application.
- Required applicable DBPR boards to approve educational credits offered to inmates for purposes of satisfying licensure requirements as a barber or cosmetologist.

In his [veto message](#), the Governor objected to the provision in CS/HB 133 that prohibited DBPR from considering an applicant's criminal history that was more than three years before the date of the application for licensure. The veto message did not comment on the provision of the bill related to approval of educational credits earned by inmates in a correctional institution.

¹ [S. 944.801, F.S.](#)

² [S. 944.801\(3\), F.S.](#)

³ Florida Department of Corrections, *Bureau of Education*, <https://www.fdc.myflorida.com/programs/bureau-of-education> (last visited Apr. 30, 2025).

⁴ Florida Department of Corrections, *Annual Report*, https://fdc-media.ccplatform.net/content/download/3089/file/Annual_Report_22-23_V10.pdf (last visited Apr. 30, 2025).

⁵ [S. 20.165, F.S.](#)

⁶ [S. 455.203, F.S.](#) Department of Business and Professional Regulation, *Division of Professions*, <https://www2.myfloridalicense.com/division-of-professions/#1500572400331-dbbb2508-c03f> (last visited Apr. 30, 2025).

⁷ [S. 20.165\(4\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #	HOUSE SPONSOR(S)	SENATE SPONSOR	OTHER INFORMATION
2024	CS/HB 133	Chambliss and Plakon	Stewart	The Governor vetoed the bill on June 26, 2024.

OTHER RESOURCES:

[Florida Department of Corrections – Career and Technical Education Programs](#)