

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice

BILL: SB 472

INTRODUCER: Senator Truenow

SUBJECT: Education in Correctional Facilities for Licensed Professions

DATE: March 17, 2025

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Wyant</u>	<u>Stokes</u>	<u>CJ</u>	Favorable
2.	<u>Atchley</u>	<u>Harkness</u>	<u>ACJ</u>	Pre-meeting
3.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 472 amends s. 944.801, F.S., to require the Department of Corrections (DOC) to coordinate with the relevant professional boards under the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) to ensure that inmates who successfully complete classes that are required for licensure in such professions will receive credit towards licensure.

The bill may have an indeterminate workload impact. See Section V. Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

II. Present Situation:

The Correctional Education Program

The Correctional Education Program (CEP) within the 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

¹ Section 944.801, F.S.

² Section 944.801(3), F.S.

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

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation

The DBPR regulates and licenses specified businesses and professionals in Florida.⁵ The 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.^{6,7} Examples of relevant professional boards under the DBPR include the Barbers' Board, the Construction Industry Licensing Board, the Board of Cosmetology, and the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board.⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 944.801, F.S., to require the CEP within the DOC to design and implement a plan, in conjunction with the relevant professional boards regulated by the DBPR, to ensure that inmates who successfully complete classes that meet the curriculum requirements for professional licensure receive credits towards applicable DBPR licensure requirements.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The bill does not appear to require cities and counties to expend funds or limit their authority to raise revenue or receive state-shared revenues as specified by Article VII, s. 18, of the State Constitution.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

³ Florida Department of Corrections, *Bureau of Education*, available at <https://www.fdc.myflorida.com/programs/bureau-of-education> (last visited February 24, 2025).

⁴ Florida Department of Corrections, *Annual Report*, available at https://fdc-media.ccplatform.net/content/download/3089/file/Annual_Report_22-23_V10.pdf (last visited February 24, 2025).

⁵ Section 20.165, F.S.

⁶ Section 455.203, F.S.

⁷ Department of Business and Professional Regulation, *Division of Professions*, available at <https://www2.myfloralicense.com/division-of-professions/#1500572400331-dbbb2508-c03f> (last visited February 24, 2025).

⁸ Section 20.165(4)(a), F.S.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

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 the DBPR regulated professional boards more quickly upon their release.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate workload impact on state government by requiring the DOC to coordinate with the relevant professional boards regulated by the DBPR to ensure that inmates receive credit towards professional licensure for successfully completing vocational courses. However, the bill's workload can be absorbed within existing resources.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 944.801 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
