



TO: The Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania Senate

FROM: Alex Halper, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: July 15, 2020

RE: Support S.B. 14, probation and parole reform

On behalf of the PA Chamber of Business and Industry, I urge support for S.B. 14, to reform probation and parole rules, which the Senate is expected to consider today.

Despite the severe economic disruption and unemployment caused by the pandemic and business shutdown, Pennsylvania remains in the midst of a workforce crisis as many employers struggle to find qualified workers to fill open positions. Addressing these challenges will be even more critical as Pennsylvania works towards economic recovery.

Helping facilitate employment among individuals with a criminal record is an important part of a multi-pronged workforce strategy. S.B. 14 provides updates and improvements to probation and parole laws that will help reentrants obtain and maintain employment including:

- Incenting individuals on probation to pursue education and job training programs by allowing sentences to be reduced once a program is successfully completed;
- Limiting when a technical violation can lead to probation/parole revocation, which can disrupt employment and discourage employers from hiring these individuals; and
- Directing courts to consider scheduling confinement around an employed probationer's work schedule in the event of revocation for a technical violation.

These reforms will benefit individuals and employers and we urge you to support S.B. 14. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.