



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Alex Halper, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: October 19, 2021

RE: Support S.B. 913: probation reform

I write on behalf of the PA Chamber of Business and Industry urging support for S.B. 913, to reform probation rules, which the committee is expected to consider today.

Pennsylvania remains in the midst of a workforce crisis as many employers struggle to find workers for open positions. Addressing this challenge will require a multi-pronged approach, including helping facilitate employment among reentrants and individuals with a criminal record.

S.B. 913 updates and improves Pennsylvania's probation law, including provisions to help reentrants obtain and maintain employment:

- 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 revocation, which can disrupt employment and discourage employers from hiring individuals on probation; and
- Directing courts to consider scheduling confinement around a 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. 913. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.