



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA Senate
FROM: Alex Halper, VP, Government Affairs
DATE: June 26, 2023
RE: Support S.B. 838 – Probation reform

I write on behalf of the PA Chamber of Business and Industry urging support for S.B. 838, to reform probation rules, which we understand the Senate may consider this week.

Pennsylvania employers of all sizes and spanning a broad range of industries continue to report difficulty finding individuals to fill open positions. This workforce crisis is holding back Pennsylvania's economy and addressing it will require concerted action from all stakeholders and lawmakers advancing policies that encourage people into the workforce. This includes helping facilitate employment among reentrants, individuals with a criminal record and Pennsylvanians on probation.

S.B. 838 updates and improves Pennsylvania's probation law, including provisions to help reentrants obtain and maintain employment:

- Directing courts to consider scheduling confinement around a probationer's work schedule in the event of revocation for a technical violation;
- Incenting individuals on probation to pursue education and job training programs;
- Limiting when a technical violation can lead to probation revocation, which can disrupt employment and discourage employers from hiring individuals on probation.

These reforms will benefit individuals and employers and we urge you to support S.B. 838. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.