

REFERENCE TITLE: inmate labor; wages

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

SB 1712

Introduced by
Senator Gonzales: Representative Hernandez L

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 31-254 AND 31-284, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO PRISONERS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 31-254, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 31-254. Compensation for labor performed; price of prison
5 made articles; distribution of earnings; workers'
6 compensation

7 A. Each prisoner who is engaged in productive work in any state
8 prison or institution under the jurisdiction of the department or a
9 private prison under contract with the department as a part of the prison
10 industries program shall receive for the prisoner's work the compensation
11 that the director determines. The compensation shall be in accordance
12 with a graduated schedule based on quantity and quality of work performed
13 and skill required for its performance but shall not ~~exceed one dollar~~
14 ~~fifty cents per hour unless the prisoner is employed in an Arizona~~
15 ~~correctional industries program pursuant to title 41, chapter 11,~~
16 ~~article 3~~ BE LESS THAN THE MINIMUM WAGE PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 23-363. If
17 the director enters into a contract pursuant to section 41-1624.01 with a
18 private person, firm, corporation or association the director shall
19 prescribe prisoner compensation ~~of at least two dollars per hour~~ THAT IS
20 COMMENSURATE WITH THE MARKET RATE FOR SIMILAR CONTRACTS IN THIS STATE.
21 Compensation shall not be paid to prisoners for attendance at educational
22 training or treatment programs, but compensation may be paid for work
23 training programs.

24 B. Whenever a price is fixed for any article, material, supply or
25 service to be produced, manufactured, supplied or performed in connection
26 with the industries program of the department, the compensation paid to
27 prisoners shall be included as an item of cost in fixing the price.

28 C. The compensation of prisoners shall be paid out of the fund
29 established pursuant to section 41-1624 or out of funds appropriated for
30 that purpose by the legislature when required.

31 ~~D. If the compensation due a prisoner is less than two dollars per~~
32 ~~hour, mandatory deductions shall be taken for the following purposes in~~
33 ~~the order specified:~~

34 ~~1. Twenty-five percent of the prisoner's gross wages until the~~
35 ~~prisoner's dedicated discharge account registers a two hundred fifty~~
36 ~~dollar balance or, if the prisoner is serving a sentence of natural life,~~
37 ~~a fifty dollar balance.~~

38 ~~2. If the prisoner initiates a lawsuit, twenty percent from all~~
39 ~~deposits to the prisoner's spendable account until the court fees are~~
40 ~~collected in full.~~

41 ~~3. If the prisoner was not convicted of a violation of title 28,~~
42 ~~chapter 4, five percent of the prisoner's gross wages shall be used~~
43 ~~exclusively to fund the transition program established by section 31-281.~~
44 ~~All monies collected under this paragraph shall be deposited, pursuant to~~

1 ~~sections 35-146 and 35-147, in the transition program fund established by~~
2 ~~section 31-284.~~

3 ~~4. Thirty percent of the prisoner's wages for court ordered~~
4 ~~dependent care.~~

5 ~~E.~~ D. If the PRISONER RECEIVES compensation ~~due a prisoner equals~~
6 ~~or exceeds two dollars per hour~~, the director shall credit to the
7 prisoner's spendable account established pursuant to section 31-230 an
8 amount equaling ~~fifty cents~~ \$.50 per hour for each hour compensation is
9 due plus ten percent of the adjusted balance remaining after the mandatory
10 deductions are taken. Mandatory deductions shall be taken for the
11 following purposes in the order specified:

12 1. THIRTY PERCENT OF THE PRISONER'S WAGES FOR COURT-ORDERED
13 DEPENDENT CARE.

14 ~~1.~~ 2. Twenty-five percent of the prisoner's gross wages until the
15 prisoner's dedicated discharge account registers a ~~two hundred fifty~~
16 ~~dollar~~ \$250 balance or, if the prisoner is serving a sentence of natural
17 life, a ~~fifty dollar~~ \$50 balance.

18 ~~2.~~ 3. If the prisoner initiates a lawsuit, twenty percent from all
19 deposits to the prisoner's spendable account until the court costs are
20 collected in full.

21 ~~3.~~ 4. If the prisoner was not convicted of a violation of title
22 28, chapter 4, five percent of the prisoner's gross wages to fund the
23 transition program established by section 31-281. All monies collected
24 under this paragraph shall be deposited, pursuant to sections 35-146 and
25 35-147, in the transition program fund established by section 31-284.

26 ~~4.~~ 5. Thirty percent of the prisoner's wages for the room and
27 board costs of maintaining the prisoner at the facility.

28 ~~5. Thirty percent of the prisoner's wages for court ordered~~
29 ~~dependent care.~~

30 ~~F.~~ E. After the mandatory deductions and obligations are paid by
31 the prisoner, the remaining monies shall be credited to the prisoner's
32 retention account established by the director pursuant to section 31-261,
33 subsection B.

34 ~~G.~~ F. A prisoner may gain access to the prisoner's trust fund or
35 retention account for emergency purposes at the sole discretion of the
36 director.

37 ~~H.~~ G. Any monies not expended from the contributing prisoner's
38 trust fund or retention account for the purposes prescribed in subsection
39 ~~E~~ D of this section shall be paid to the prisoner on release pursuant to
40 section 31-228.

41 ~~I.~~ H. If any prisoner escapes, the director shall determine what
42 portion of the prisoner's earnings shall be forfeited, and the forfeited
43 amount shall be deposited in the special services fund established by
44 section 41-1604.03.

1 ~~+~~ I. This section is not intended to restore, in whole or in
2 part, the civil rights of any prisoner. A prisoner who is compensated
3 under this section shall not be considered to be an employee of or
4 employed by this state, the department or any private person, firm,
5 corporation or association engaged in a contract pursuant to section
6 41-1624.01, and the prisoner does not come within any of the provisions of
7 the workers' compensation provided in title 23, chapter 6 and is not
8 entitled to any benefits under title 23, chapter 6 whether on behalf of
9 the prisoner or of any other person. This subsection does not apply to
10 prisoners who are employed pursuant to a federally certified prison
11 industry enhancement program established pursuant to section 41-1674.

12 Sec. 2. Section 31-284, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
13 read:

14 31-284. Transition program fund

15 The transition program fund is established consisting of ~~the~~ monies
16 collected pursuant to section 31-254, subsection D, paragraph
17 ~~3 and subsection E, paragraph 3~~ 4 and section 31-285, subsection C. The
18 department shall administer the fund to pay for any costs related to the
19 administration of the transition program and for transition program
20 services. Monies in the fund are subject to legislative appropriation and
21 are exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of
22 appropriations.