

A BILL

FOR AN ACT FOR THE BETTER PROTECTION OF THE MECHANICS AND LABOR-
ING MEN OF THE STATE BY PROHIBITING THE HIRING OUT OF CONVICTS
IN THE SEVERAL PENITENTIARIES OF THE STATE, AND TO REGULATE
THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS IN THE SAME.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa :

SECTION 1. No contract shall be made by which the time or labor of any prisoner
2 or prisoners in the several penitentiaries of the State of Iowa shall be let, hired or sold to
3 any contractor or to any person or persons.

SEC. 2. The system of labor in the several penitentiaries in this State, shall hereafter be
2 that known as the "State Contract System," and in addition to the powers now conferred
3 by law upon the several wardens of the State Penitentiaries, they are authorized to employ
4 or direct to be employed the convicts confined in said institutions in such manner and in
5 such branches and at such kinds of labor as in the judgment of said wardens shall be most
6 advantageous to the interest of the State and not interfere with the health and welfare of
7 said convicts or the good order and discipline of such institutions except that no more than
8 (5) five per cent of the average aggregate number of said convicts in said institutions shall
9 be employed in any one trade or branch of industry. The said wardens of the several pen-
10 itentiaries of the State are hereby authorized to procure and maintain or cause to be
11 procured and maintained all necessary materials, machinery, tools, apparatus or accommo-
12 dations needful for the purpose of properly carrying on and conducting such trades and
13 industries aforesaid. The said wardens shall have power to employ all necessary agents to
14 dispose of the products of such labor, which products shall not be sold for a price less than
15 the open market value of such products. In establishing the various branches of industry
16 to be carried on in the several State penitentiaries, the said wardens shall, as far as practic-
17 able, select such trades or industries so to be carried on as will the least effect or injure
18 outside industries.

SEC. 3. The said wardens of the several penitentiaries shall keep an accurate account of
2 the reasonable value of the labor of each convict under his charge and place the same to
3 his credit at the end of each and every month, and the wages so allowed said convict shall
4 not be less than the customary price for such kind of work. From this sum shall be de-
5 ducted first the actual cost to the State of the boarding and keeping of such convict if
6 such convict be the head of a family. Three fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the remainder shall be paid
7 quarterly to his wife or if he have no wife living then the same to be paid to the proper

8 persons for the use and support of his minor children under the age of 16 years, or as long
9 as they remain under 16 years of age. The balance of such earnings shall be credited to
10 said convict and remain subject to his order. If he have no wife or minors of said age the
11 whole of the amount remaining after deducting his board and keeping as before provided
12 in this section shall be so placed to his credit. In case the wife of any such convict shall
13 obtain a divorce from him after his conviction none of the benefits herein named shall ac-
14 crue to her after such divorce. If such convict be a woman, the provisions of this act shall
15 apply as to her minor children not living with their father. None of the funds so earned
16 and placed to the credit of any such convict shall be subject to any judgment or execution
17 and the same shall be exempt from execution. When said convict's term of sentence has
18 expired or for any reason he is discharged from said penitentiary then all money heretofore
19 placed to his credit by reason of this act and so remaining at the time of his discharge shall
20 be paid to him in lawful money of the United States of America.

SEC. 4. It shall not be lawful for the wardens of the several penitentiaries of the State
2 to hereafter receive or permit to be received therein any prisoner or prisoners convicted in
3 any United States court or the court of any State other than the State of Iowa.

SEC. 5. The willful violation of any of the provisions of this act on the part of the sev-
2 eral wardens of the several penitentiaries of the State or the willful neglect or failure to
3 carry out the provisions on the part of said officials shall be a sufficient cause for their re-
4 moval by the Governor of the State, but no such removal shall be made until said officials
5 shall be notified of the acts charged against them and they have an opportunity to be heard
6 and such willful neglect or refusal aforesaid shall be deemed a misdemeanor and punish-
7 able by a fine of not less than \$250 or more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for a period not
8 exceeding one year or by both, such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court
9 before whom the same is tried.

SEC. 6. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby
2 repealed.

SEC. 7. Nothing in this act contained shall be considered to interfere with any existing
2 contracts.

SEC. 8. This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall be in force from and
2 after its publication in the Iowa State Register and the Iowa State Leader, newspapers
3 published at Des Moines, Iowa.