

# A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO REGULATE THE EMPLOYMENT OF CONVICT LABOR IN THE PENITENTIARIES, AND IN OTHER PRISONS AND REFORMATORIES IN THE STATE.

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

SECTION 1. That at the expiration of all existing contracts between the State of Iowa, 2 and between the lawful authorities of any county, city, (whether operating under the gen- 3 eral incorporation laws of this State or under special charter), or any incorporated town, 4 and any contractor for and with reference to the employment and use of the convict labor 5 of such State in its penitentiaries or reformatories or of such counties, cities or incorporated 6 towns, under which such contractors acquire or have acquired, or shall acquire the use of 7 such convict labor by paying to such State, or to such county, city or incorporated town 8 any per diem price or compensation for any stated or definite, or for any uncertain or in- 9 definite period, for the use of such labor for the benefit of such contractor or contractors to 10 be employed in or about any of such public prisons or reformatories, upon any materials 11 furnished or supplied in any manufacture of any machinery, merchandise, implements or 12 articles of sale, which when manufactured shall or will be the property of such contractor 13 or contractors in whole or in part, all of such contracts or parts thereof or anything supple- 14 mentary thereto shall forever cease, and no contracts of a like kind, either directly or indi- 15 rectly, shall hereafter be made or entered into by any of the public authorities in this 16 State, and any such contracts hereafter made or entered into in this State are hereby de- 17 clared null and void.

SEC. 2. All such contracts hereafter entered into or made by any public authority in this 2 State, for the purpose of evading this act, are hereby declared null and void, and any per- 3 son who makes or enters into any such contract to evade this act and to prevent its enforce- 4 ment, if convicted thereof, shall pay a fine of not less than one hundred and fifty dollars 5 nor more than one thousand dollars.

SEC. 3. All contracts in and about the employment of any convict or penal labor in any 2 of the penitentiaries or reformatories of this State or in and about any of the prisons in any 3 county, city, or incorporated town in this State, or in or about any of the alms-houses in this 4 State whereby such labor is let or hired to another than such public authorities, shall here- 5 after be under and described as the piece-price plan or system, that is, all such contracts

6 shall be for the services of such convicts to such contractor or contractors at a certain price  
7 to be paid such public authority, in money value according to the amount and character of  
8 the work and skill which each of such convicts may be able to bestow and place upon such  
9 article of manufacture or such object of such labor included in and relating to the general  
10 business of such contractor or contractors as defined in the terms of any such contract be-  
11 tween such public authority and such contractor or contractors.

SEC. 4. No contract between any such public authority and any such contractor or con-  
2 tractors shall subsist and be in effect or be made to endure for a longer period than five  
3 years; and no such contract shall either be entered into or renewed by any such public  
4 authority without advertising therefor, for proposals for such labor in at least three daily  
5 newspapers for at least six weeks prior to such letting of such labor, and one of such news-  
6 papers shall be printed and published at the capital of this State, and be a newspaper of  
7 general circulation.

SEC. 5. No renewal of any such contract shall be made except within six months prior to  
2 the date when such contract is made to expire by the terms thereof.

SEC. 6. No such contractor shall be permitted to employ or use any such convict labor  
2 for more than eight hours in each twenty-four hours, and under no circumstances shall any  
3 such convict labor be employed or used by such contractor or contractors on the day com-  
4 monly known as Sunday, and upon conviction of any such an offense the person or persons  
5 so found guilty shall be liable to a fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

SEC. 7. This act shall not in any way apply to any convict labor used by this State or by  
2 any county, city, or incorporated town in erecting any of its public buildings or in making  
3 any other public improvement when the same is carried on by the public authorities in this  
4 State, and not by contract with individuals. Nor shall the same apply when any of such  
5 convict labor is employed in connection with either the public, domestic, or agricultural in-  
6 terests, and the subsisting, clothing and quartering of the inmates of any such prisons, re-  
7 formatories or alms-houses.

SEC. 8. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.