

 KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Commonwealth Bill	Red CW 37						
	Referred to Committee: Senate 3						
Authors: Haley Cook, Sarah Loy, Callie Montgomery, Tyler Lulek	Action on the Bill <table> <tr> <td>House</td> <td>Senate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td>___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	House	Senate	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
House		Senate					
___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed		___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed					
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School: Russell Co. MS							
City: Russell Springs							

1 An act to increase the pay wages of Kentucky state prisoners

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3 **Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**

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5 Section 1: By being low paid while incarcerated, criminals struggle to break the cycle of poverty they
6 are in and, in fact, the cycle itself may be the reason they became a criminal. The practice of paying
7 inmates an increased wage makes society safer because inmates who make a minimum wage are far
8 less likely to commit another crime.

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10 The low wages that prisons pay help cause more dependents of inmates to end up on welfare and more
11 and more prisoners find themselves in worse financial situations when they are set free. Therefore,
12 families of the prisoners are being punished as well.

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14 The low wages prisons currently provide instill an attitude of "crime pays better" and creates a sense
15 of low self-worth and importance. By paying a higher wage the inmate is afforded some sense of self
16 importance and they can begin to turn their life around and become self supporting. In fact they may
17 actually be able to make some sort of restitution to the victims of their crimes.

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19 Section 2: Approximately 91% of the Kentucky prison population crimes are related to property crimes,
20 including drug possession. As of 2007, 13% of Kentucky crimes were strictly related to drug
21 manufacturing.

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23 Section 3: As of now, Kentucky inmates that have committed a non-violent crime (including drug-
24 related offenses) receive a wage of approximately \$0.45 an hour. This small amount causes the
25 inmates to go back to their normal lives of destitution. What this bill is intended to do is raise the wage
26 of the inmates, prevent them from going back to their lives of crime, and returning to there ways that
27 landed them in jail.

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29 Section 4: Our plan is to increase the wage of Kentucky inmates, so that when their sentence ends they
30 will be more prepared for returning to the real world. This bill would increase the prisoner's wage
31 \$3.50.

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33 Section 5: The state government would have to assume the added cost of the program through the
34 department of corrections. The extra money could come from increased sales and services provided by
35 the prisoners and the prisons.

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37 Section 6: This bill will go into effect on January 1st, 2017.