SENATE BILL 547

By: **Senators Pugh, Benson, Conway, Ferguson, Lee, Nathan–Pulliam, and
     Rosapepe**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2016
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1   AN ACT concerning

2   **Ex–Offenders Recidivism Reduction Act**

3   FOR the purpose of requiring an authority, to the maximum extent practicable, to provide
4   access to public housing for ex–offenders; requiring an authority to avoid denying
5   the eligibility of an individual based on a misdemeanor conviction or other certain
6   offenses under certain circumstances; requiring an authority to develop certain
7   guidance regarding eligibility for tenants with a criminal history; and generally
8   relating to access to public housing.

9   BY adding to
10   Article – Housing and Community Development
11   Section 12–406
12   Annotated Code of Maryland
13   (2006 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

14   SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16   **Article – Housing and Community Development**

17 **12–406.**

18   **(A)   IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION, AN AUTHORITY, TO THE MAXIMUM
19 EXTENT PRACTICABLE, SHALL PROVIDE ACCESS TO PUBLIC HOUSING FOR
20 EX–OFFENDERS.**

21   **(B)   AN AUTHORITY SHALL AVOID DENYING ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC
22 HOUSING TO AN INDIVIDUAL BASED ON A MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION, OTHER
23 MINOR OFFENSE, OR AN OFFENSE THAT OCCURRED MORE THAN 10 YEARS BEFORE**

1   **THE INDIVIDUAL APPLIED FOR PUBLIC HOUSING UNLESS THE SPECIFIC**
2   **CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S CONDUCT DEMONSTRATE THAT DENYING**
3   **ELIGIBILITY IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF OTHER TENANTS.**

4   **(C) AN AUTHORITY SHALL DEVELOP CLEAR, PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE**
5   **GUIDANCE REGARDING WHAT TYPES OF CRIMINAL HISTORY INFORMATION IT WILL**
6   **CONSIDER, INCLUDING HOW THIS INFORMATION WILL BE EVALUATED, IN**
7   **DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR TENANTS.**

8   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9   October 1, 2016.