

Chapter 60

(Senate Bill 821)

AN ACT concerning

Correctional Services – Prerelease Unit Study and Report

FOR the purpose of ~~defining the term “prerelease unit” as it relates to prerelease services provided by the Division of Correction;~~ requiring the Commissioner of Correction to conduct a certain study and make a certain report on or before a certain date; and generally relating to prerelease units.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article — Correctional Services
Section 3-101(a), 3-301, and 3-303
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

~~BY adding to
Article — Correctional Services
Section 3-101(d)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

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

~~**Article — Correctional Services**~~

~~3-101.~~

~~(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(D) “PRERELEASE UNIT” MEANS A SEPARATE STRUCTURE IN WHICH THE SERVICES ENUMERATED IN § 3-303(D) OF THIS TITLE ARE PROVIDED AND THAT HAS SECURITY FEATURES FOR AN INMATE WHO:~~

- ~~(1) PRESENTS THE LEAST RISK OF VIOLENCE;~~
- ~~(2) PRESENTS THE LEAST RISK OF ESCAPE; AND~~
- ~~(3) HAS A RECORD OF SATISFACTORY INSTITUTIONAL BEHAVIOR.~~

~~3-301.~~

~~The Commissioner may operate a prerelease unit for women.~~

~~§ 303.~~

~~(a) The Commissioner shall:~~

~~(1) develop comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services; and~~

~~(2) make these services available to inmates of a prerelease unit for women.~~

~~(b) The comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services shall:~~

~~(1) assist inmates in improving their education, upgrading vocational skills, and obtaining suitable employment;~~

~~(2) provide inmates with the opportunity to strengthen family and community relationships through extended family leave;~~

~~(3) assist inmates in improving their physical and mental health and reducing any tendency to abuse alcohol or drugs; and~~

~~(4) provide appropriate counseling, instruction, supervision, and medical and psychological treatment as necessary to help inmates achieve stable and productive roles in society.~~ the Commissioner of Correction shall:

(1) conduct a study on gender-based equity in prerelease programming and facilities in Maryland that examines:

(i) existing State and local prerelease programming and facilities in Maryland that are available to men and women;

(ii) the components of each prerelease program in Maryland;

(iii) the staffing of each prerelease program in Maryland, including the number of professional and nonprofessional consultants and the proportion of these staff members solely detailed to prerelease programs;

(iv) the number of persons currently classified as prerelease by age, sex, race, and ethnicity in each program;

(v) the types of training and employment offered at each prerelease program and the fees, if any, related to participation;

(vi) the housing type arrangements for each prerelease program;

(vii) the type of facilities associated with each prerelease program;

(viii) the process for receiving a prerelease classification;

(ix) the process for determining access to each prerelease program and placement into the program; and

(x) a comparison of the prerelease programs and facilities available in the State to men and women; and

(2) on or before January 1, 2020, report to the Governor and the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the results of the study.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2019.