

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 821

(Senator Washington, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

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**Correctional Services – Prerelease Study and Report**

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This bill requires the Commissioner of Correction to (1) conduct a study on gender-based equity in prerelease programming and facilities in Maryland, as specified, and (2) by January 1, 2020, report on the results of the study to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2019.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services can conduct the required study and report the required information with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Commissioner of Correction is statutorily authorized, *but not required*, to operate a prerelease unit for women. Under this authority, the commissioner must (1) develop comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services and (2) make these services available to inmates of a prerelease unit for women. These comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services must:

- assist inmates in improving their education, upgrading vocational skills, and obtaining suitable employment;

- provide inmates with the opportunity to strengthen family and community relationships through extended family leave;
- assist inmates in improving their physical and mental health and reducing any tendency to abuse alcohol or drugs; and
- provide appropriate counseling, instruction, supervision, and medical and psychological treatment as necessary to help inmates achieve stable and productive roles in society.

By contract or purchase of service agreement, the Division of Correction (DOC) may arrange for a person or governmental unit to provide comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services in a prerelease unit for women.

**Background:** DOC currently operates prerelease operations throughout the State correctional system identified as re-entry programs. All inmates due for release have a transition plan. After an inmate is released, the Division of Parole and Probation continues to monitor an inmate's transition plan.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 710 (Delegates Crutchfield and Charkoudian) - Judiciary.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services;  
Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2019  
mag/lgc Third Reader - March 26, 2019  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 26, 2019  
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Analysis by: Shirleen M. E. Pilgrim

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510