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By: Senator West

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning 2 Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded 3 Reentry Services - Establishment 4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning 5 Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services; requiring the Task Force to submit a 6 certain report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally 7 relating to the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and 8 Expanded Reentry Services. 9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, 10 That: 11 (a) There is a Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and 12 Expanded Reentry Services. The Task Force consists of: 13 (b) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of 14 (1)the Senate: 15 16 (2)one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the 17 House; 18 the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the (3)19 Secretary's designee; 20 the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the (4) 21Secretary's designee; 22 the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee; (5)



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(e) A member of the Task Force:

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1	(6)	the S	ecretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;				
2	(7)	the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee;					
3	(8)	the P	ublic Defender, or the Public Defender's designee; and				
4	(9)	the fo	llowing members, appointed by the Governor:				
5 6	correctional facilit	(i) y;	one individual who was formerly incarcerated in a State				
7 8	who is currently in	(ii) ncarcer	one individual who is the family member of a male individual ated in a State correctional facility;				
9 10	who is currently in	(iii) ncarcer	one individual who is the family member of a female individual ated in a State correctional facility;				
11 12	Association, recom	(iv) mende	one representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys'd by the President of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association;				
13		(v)	one representative of the Lived Experience Advisory Committee;				
14		(vi)	one representative of Maryland Legal Aid;				
15		(vii)	one representative of Life After Release;				
16		(viii)	one representative of the Maryland Reentry Resource Center;				
17 18	Collaborative;	(ix)	one representative of the Maryland Equitable Justice				
19 20	programs;	(x)	three representatives from county workforce development				
21		(xi)	two representatives from county reentry organizations; and				
22 23	reentry of incarcer	(xii) rated ir	two representatives of a nonprofit organization focused on dividuals.				
24 25	(c) The r of the Task Force.	nembe	rs of the Task Force shall elect a chair from among the members				
26 27	(d) The I for the Task Force	-	ment of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide staff				

1	(1)	may	not rec	ceive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but					
2 3	(2) Travel Regulation	is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard States, as provided in the State budget.							
4	(f) The	Task F	ask Force shall:						
5	(1)	ident	ify and	d assess the reentry services that exist in the State;					
6	(2)	ident	ify gap	ps in reentry services currently provided in the State;					
7	(3)	asses	s the n	markers of successful reentry;					
8	(4) returning citizens	(4) ensure that the recommendations of the Task Force equally consider sturning citizens regardless of gender;							
10	(5) develop a plan to establish a Division of Returning Citizens within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to:								
12		(i)	asses	ss measures of reentry success;					
13 14	programs;	(ii)	coord	dinate existing Department and community reentry					
5		(iii)	remo	ove barriers to reentry;					
16		(iv)	empo	ower residents to break the cycle of recidivism; and					
17 18	assistance; and	(v)	conne	ect incarcerated individuals to pre-release and postrelease					
19 20	(6) State after release			plan to expand the following services for individuals in the eration:					
21		(i)	housi	sing services, including:					
22			1.	a needs assessment before an individual is released;					
23 24	apartment;		2.	assistance in finding a halfway house, family home, or					
25			3.	transportation to an individual's home on release;					
26			4.	referral to first-time home buyer programs; and					
27	and Transition So	rvicos l	5. Unit:	other housing services currently provided by the Re–entry					

1	(ii)	empl	oyment services, including:
2		1.	a needs assessment before an individual is released;
3		2.	employment and entrepreneur training;
4		3.	resume assistance;
5		4.	assistance obtaining vital documents and State
6	identification;		
7		5.	connection to employers; and
8 9	Re–entry and Transition	6. Servi	other employment services currently provided by the ces Unit;
0	(iii)	socia	lization services, including:
1		1.	a needs assessment before an individual is released;
$^{12}$		2.	financial literacy training;
13		3.	connection with a mentor;
4		4.	technology acclimation and training; and
15 16	Re–entry and Transition	5. Servi	other socialization services currently provided by the ces Unit;
17	(iv)	healt	h services, including:
18		1.	a needs assessment before an individual is released;
9		2.	connection to:
20		A.	a primary care provider;
21		В.	mental health services;
22		С.	dental care;
23		D.	anger management therapy;
24		E.	substance abuse counseling; and
25		F.	nutrition counseling; and

1 2	and Transition Services	3. Unit;	other health services currently provided by the Re-entry		
3	(v)	legal	assistance, including:		
4		1.	a needs assessment before an individual is released;		
5		2.	assistance with obtaining child support;		
6		3.	assistance with expungement of criminal records; and		
7 8	and Transition Services	4. Unit;	other legal services currently provided by the Re-entry		
9	(vi)	educa	ation services, including:		
10		1.	a needs assessment before an individual is released;		
11		2.	connection to GED programs;		
12		3.	connection to postsecondary education; and		
13 14	4. other education services currently provided by th Re–entry and Transition Services Unit;				
15	(vii)	coord	ination with county reentry programs, including:		
16		1.	notification of release to a home county; and		
17		2.	assistance acquiring dental and health records;		
18 19	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		services identified at the time of the trial, during an individual who is being released from incarceration; and		
20 21	(ix) Services Unit.	other	services currently provided by the Re–entry and Transition		
22 23 24	(g) On or before December 31, 2025, the Task Force shall, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, submit a report to the General Assembly of its findings and recommendations.				
25 26 27	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be				

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abrogated and of no further force and effect.