

SENATE BILL 1036

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4r2591
CF 4r1629

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.

13 (b) The Task Force consists of:

14 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
15 the Senate;

16 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
17 House;

18 (3) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
19 Secretary's designee;

20 (4) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
21 Secretary's designee;

22 (5) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (6) the Secretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;

2 (7) the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee;

3 (8) the Public Defender, or the Public Defender's designee; and

4 (9) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

5 (i) one individual who was formerly incarcerated in a State
6 correctional facility;

7 (ii) one individual who is the family member of a male individual
8 who is currently incarcerated in a State correctional facility;

9 (iii) one individual who is the family member of a female individual
10 who is currently incarcerated in a State correctional facility;

11 (iv) one representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys'
12 Association, recommended 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 (ix) one representative of the Maryland Equitable Justice
18 Collaborative;

19 (x) three representatives from county workforce development
20 programs;

21 (xi) two representatives from county reentry organizations; and

22 (xii) two representatives of a nonprofit organization focused on
23 reentry of incarcerated individuals.

24 (c) The members of the Task Force shall elect a chair from among the members
25 of the Task Force.

26 (d) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide staff
27 for the Task Force.

28 (e) A member of the Task Force:

1 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

2 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
3 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

4 (f) The Task Force shall:

5 (1) identify and assess the reentry services that exist in the State;

6 (2) identify gaps in reentry services currently provided in the State;

7 (3) assess the markers of successful reentry;

8 (4) ensure that the recommendations of the Task Force equally consider
9 returning citizens regardless of gender;

10 (5) develop a plan to establish a Division of Returning Citizens within the
11 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to:

12 (i) assess measures of reentry success;

13 (ii) coordinate existing Department and community reentry
14 programs;

15 (iii) remove barriers to reentry;

16 (iv) empower residents to break the cycle of recidivism; and

17 (v) connect incarcerated individuals to pre-release and postrelease
18 assistance; and

19 (6) develop a plan to expand the following services for individuals in the
20 State after release from incarceration:

21 (i) housing services, including:

22 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

23 2. assistance in finding a halfway house, family home, or
24 apartment;

25 3. transportation to an individual's home on release;

26 4. referral to first-time home buyer programs; and

27 5. other housing services currently provided by the Re-entry
28 and Transition Services Unit;

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- 1 (ii) employment 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 6. other employment services currently provided by the
9 Re-entry and Transition Services Unit;

- 10 (iii) socialization services, including:
- 11 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;
- 12 2. financial literacy training;
- 13 3. connection with a mentor;
- 14 4. technology acclimation and training; and
- 15 5. other socialization services currently provided by the
16 Re-entry and Transition Services Unit;

- 17 (iv) health services, including:
- 18 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;
- 19 2. connection to:
- 20 A. a primary care provider;
- 21 B. mental health services;
- 22 C. dental care;
- 23 D. anger management therapy;
- 24 E. substance abuse counseling; and
- 25 F. nutrition counseling; and

