

# SENATE BILL 61

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr1421

CF HB 108

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By: Senator Sydnor

Requested: October 29, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

### 2 **Division of Correction – Release Preparation Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Release Preparation Program in the Division of  
4 Correction for the purpose of providing access to formerly incarcerated individuals  
5 to State correctional facilities to assist incarcerated individuals with release  
6 preparation; altering the purposes of the Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement  
7 Fund to include providing funds to cover the costs of supporting the Release  
8 Preparation Program; and generally relating to the Release Preparation Program.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis  
11 Section 36–206  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – Correctional Services  
16 Section 9–619  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2025 Replacement Volume)

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

### 21 **Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis**

22 36–206.

23 (a) In this section, “Fund” means the Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement  
24 Fund.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- (b) There is a Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement Fund.
- (c) The purpose of the Fund is to provide funds to cover the costs of:
  - (1) the operation of the Administration;
  - (2) administering and enforcing this title; [and]
  - (3) supporting the Social Equity Partnership Grant Program established § 1–323 of this article; **AND**

7 (4) SUPPORTING THE RELEASE PREPARATION PROGRAM  
8 ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9-619 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.

- (d) The Administration shall administer the Fund.
- (e) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of State Finance and Procurement Article.

(2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the  
troller shall account for the Fund.

(f) The Fund consists of:

- (1) fees distributed to the Fund under § 36–205 of this subtitle;
- (2) revenue distributed to the Fund under § 2–1302.2 of the Tax – General e;
- (3) interest earnings of the Fund; and
- (4) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the in accordance with any conditions adopted by the Commission for the acceptance of ions or gifts to the Fund.

(g) The Fund may be used for:

(1) carrying out this title [and];

(2) supporting the Social Equity Partnership Grant Program established  
§ 1–323 of this article; AND

26 (3) SUPPORTING THE RELEASE PREPARATION PROGRAM  
27 ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9-619 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.

3 (2) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

6 (j) (1) On or before March 15 each year, the Administration shall publish on  
7 its website a detailed report on revenue distributed to and expenditures from the Fund.

## Article – Correctional Services

11 9-619.

12 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE RELEASE PREPARATION  
13 PROGRAM.

14 (B) THERE IS A RELEASE PREPARATION PROGRAM IN THE DIVISION OF  
15 CORRECTION.

16 (C) (1) THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION SHALL ESTABLISH A PROTOCOL  
17 FOR REGISTERING FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS IN THE PROGRAM TO  
18 HAVE ACCESS TO STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
19 ASSISTING INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS WITH RELEASE PREPARATION.

23 (D) THE PROTOCOL ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS  
24 SECTION SHALL REQUIRE:

**(E) THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION MAY NOT DENY A SCHEDULE F PROVIDED**

1    **UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION UNLESS THE SCHEDULE INTERFERES**  
2    **WITH THE NORMAL FUNCTION OF THE STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.**

3            SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4    October 1, 2026.