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STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

March 5, 2020

To: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

From: The Office of the Attorney General

Re: SB 372 – Election Law – Correctional Facilities – Voter Registration and Voting
(SUPPORT)

The Office of the Attorney General supports Senate Bill 372 and urges a favorable report. This bill requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to provide each individual who is released from prison with a voter registration application and documentation informing the individual that the individual's voting rights have been restored. The bill further requires the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations establishing a program to inform eligible voters incarcerated in correctional facilities of upcoming elections and how to exercise their right to vote. Finally, SB 372 requires probation officers to post conspicuous voting rights signage further informing the previously incarcerated of their right to vote.

Senate Bill 372 is a thoughtful, bipartisan, effort to expand the electorate and remind the previously incarcerated of their ability to engage in civic duties. It is one additional step in acclimating former prisoners to free society and engaged democratic participation. It is, in short, an effort to provide them greater agency in their own futures by enabling them to choose their federal, state, and local representatives.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Office of Attorney General urges a favorable report on SB 372.

cc: Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

