

Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys' Association



Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

February 5, 2020 1pm

Hearing on SB 0591 “Maryland Second Look Act”

MCDAA POSITION: SUPPORT

Bill explanation: This bill allows a person serving a term of confinement to file a petition to modify or reduce his or her sentence if the person has served the greater of 20 years of the sentence term without application of diminution credits or 25 years of the sentence term with application of diminution credits. This means an incarcerated individual must serve AT LEAST 20 years of a sentence before filing a petition. A person may file a petition once every five years and may file a petition regardless of whether the petitioner previously filed a motion for reconsideration under Maryland Rule 4-345 or whether a prior motion filed under the bill was denied by the court. A court may not increase the length of the petitioner’s sentence. The bill also establishes requirements related to notification, hearings, and the right to representation.

For additional information or questions regarding this legislation, please contact MCDAA legislative chair: Andrew Jezic, 301.742.7470 avjezic@aol.com or our Government Relations Contacts: Alan Drew 240.856.2607 da4617@gmail.com and John Giannetti 410.300.6393, JohnGiannetti.mcdaa@gmail.com