

CHARLES E. SYDNOR III, ESQ.
Legislative District 44
Baltimore City and Baltimore County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Parliamentarian
Maryland Legislative Black Caucus



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 216
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3612 • 301-858-3612
800-492-7122 Ext. 3612
Charles.Sydnor@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senator Charles E. Sydnor III
Testimony Regarding SB 858 – Procurement and Correctional Facilities –
Employment Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals
Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
On February 26, 2020

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

A criminal record follows you wherever you go. The unemployment rate of formerly incarcerated individuals is significantly higher than the national unemployment rate. A contributing factor to recidivism is the inability to find gainful employment, which leads these individuals to turn to crime as a source of income. A major step Maryland can take towards rehabilitating formerly incarcerated individuals is to lower their barriers to employment.

SB 858 assists formerly incarcerated individuals in obtaining gainful employment in several ways. First, the bill requires all contractors who have contracts with a state or local correctional facility to post all of their jobs on the Maryland Workforce Exchange job board for formerly incarcerated individuals to view. Contractors will be required to hire from the pool of formerly incarcerated individuals who apply unless an exception in the bill applies. Second, contractors who are bidding for a contract with state and local correctional facilities will be given preference over other bidders if they hire formerly incarcerated individuals. Third, the bill requires all contractors with the aforementioned contracts to provide annual reports on the number of formerly incarcerated individuals that they employ as well as the number of formerly incarcerated individuals who applied for jobs with the contractor and demographic information about those applicants.

SB 858 provides formerly incarcerated individuals with the leg up they need to become successful and productive members of society. I will now turn the podium over to the panel to answer your technical questions. Thank you.