



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

March 6, 2020

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Room 101, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1217 – “Justice Reinvestment Act – Conditions of Release – Technical Revocation Caps” – Letter of Information with Amendments

Dear Chair Clippinger and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) submits this letter of information with amendments for House Bill 1217 (HB 1217) entitled “Justice Reinvestment Act – Conditions of Release – Technical Revocation Caps”. This bill makes modifications to Chapter 515 of 2016, the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA), relating to court procedures and sentencing for “technical violations”. In addition, the bill requires a designee of the Department who conducts an assessment to determine the need for and benefit of drug treatment, as ordered by the court for a defendant with a substance use disorder, to be certified or licensed instead of certified and licensed.

The Department respectfully offers the enclosed technical amendments to provide clarification to the bill and correct terminology.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Webster Ye, Director of Governmental Affairs, at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall
Secretary

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1217
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 3, in line 32, after “article” insert “**AFTER COMPLYING WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THAT SECTION**”.

RATIONALE: Technical amendment suggested by the MDH’s Attorney General.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 6, in line 1, after “article” insert “**AFTER COMPLYING WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THAT SECTION**”.

RATIONALE: Technical amendment suggested by the MDH’s Attorney General.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 8, in line 14, after “article” insert “**AFTER COMPLYING WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THAT SECTION**”.

RATIONALE: Technical amendment suggested by the MDH’s Attorney General.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 10, in line 22, after “article” insert “**AFTER COMPLYING WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THAT SECTION**”.

RATIONALE: Technical amendment suggested by the MDH’s Attorney General.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 8 in lines 17, 30 and 31 and on page 10 in line 25, and on page 11 in lines 5 and 6, in each instance, strike “COMMISSIONER” and substitute “**A CIRCUIT COURT OR THE DISTRICT COURT**”.

RATIONALE: Corrects terminology; §5-601 applies to Defendants in a circuit court or the District Court, not parole revocations that are heard by a commissioner.