



190 West Ostend St., #201
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410.547.1515
Fax: 410.837.5436

Patrick Moran - President

SB 87 - Office of the Attorney General - Correctional Ombudsman

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

AFSCME Council 3 represents 30,000 state and higher education employees, including the hard-working women and men who work in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). We support SB 87. This legislation establishes a Correctional Ombudsman in the Office of the Attorney General. SB 87 also establishes a Correctional Ombudsman Advisory Board consisting of 10 members appointed by the Attorney General, including representation from nonsupervisory correctional officers. We believe the below amendment is necessary in this appointment process:

AFSCME Proposed Amendment to SB 87

Pg. 12, line 14; 6-706(E)(3)

(3) Nonsupervisory Correctional Officers **recommended by the President of the American, Federation, of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 3;**

Reason for Amendment

We believe the intent of this section is to ensure that the nonsupervisory correctional officers who are appointed will be free to voice their concerns without being subject potentially to departmental policies that may seek to gag them or the fear of any retaliation by the administration. We believe the best way to guarantee this is to have the nonsupervisory correctional officers participate on the advisory board in their role with the union, and not solely as DPSCS employees. There is already precedent for such a selection process in the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services where this has worked well - see SB467/CH354 (2020). We believe this will also work well with the Correctional Ombudsman Advisory Board.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to provide a favorable with amendment report on SB 87.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
800.492.1996

Find us: afscmemd.org
Like us: facebook.com/AFSCMEMD
Follow/Tweet us: [@afscmemaryland](https://twitter.com/afscmemaryland)