



**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Office of the Secretary**

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BILL: SENATE BILL 273

POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION: This bill will prohibit a person from operating or causing the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle over a State or local correctional facility for the purpose of delivering contraband and further provides that an individual may not photograph or record images of a correctional facility without the permission of the Secretary or managing official of the facility.

COMMENTS:

- The Department operates the Division of Correction (DOC) and the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS).
 - DOC operates 13 State correctional facilities housing offenders sentenced to periods of incarceration for 18 months and longer.
 - DPDS operates the Baltimore City Pretrial Complex which houses pretrial detainees and incarcerated individuals sentenced to incarceration for periods of 18 months and less.
- Unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly referred to as drones, are increasingly being used to conduct unauthorized surveillance and are used to introduce contraband into correctional facilities, including drugs and weapons.
- Contraband delivered by drones is extremely dangerous for the incarcerated population and correctional officers, as it increases the risk of violence. Photographs and recorded images taken by drones can expose security vulnerabilities by showing a bird's eye view of staff rotations and movement of the incarcerated population.
- The bill is an essential measure against the persistent and ongoing threat of drone intrusion over correctional facilities that will only escalate as incarcerated individuals continue to test the boundaries of this vulnerable airspace.

CONCLUSION: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** Committee vote on Senate Bill 273.

STATE OF MARYLAND

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