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Patrick Moran – President

**SB 694 – Correctional Services – Assessment of State Correctional System
Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 19, 2025**

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

AFSCME Council 3 represents correctional employees within our state prison system. This legislation mandates the Office of the Correctional Ombudsman to conduct an independent and comprehensive assessment of Maryland's correctional system. While we do not believe it is necessary to hire an outside consultant for this task, we fully support an assessment that covers key areas such as facility infrastructure, staffing, programming, healthcare, and restrictive housing policies within the department. For this assessment to be truly effective, it is essential that our members—who are the frontline staff in our prisons—be explicitly included as key stakeholders and consulted throughout the process. Additionally, we want to ensure that our members' rights to negotiate any changes to working conditions or terms of employment remain protected before any modifications resulting from the assessment are implemented.

As such, we urge the committee to consider the following amendments:

AFSCME Amendment to SB 694

Amendment 1:

On Pg. 4: In (2), insert "INCLUDING AFSCME" in line 1 –
REFLECT THE INPUT OF STAKEHOLDERS, **INCLUDING AFSCME**, AND
INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS BY MEANS OF:

Amendment 2:

On. Pg. 4: In (C), insert at the end of line 28 –
**THE OFFICE SHALL FORWARD THE FINDINGS AND RECOMENDATIONS TO THE
RELEVANT EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE, AND AS APPROPRIATE, REFER ANY
PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION FOR BARGAINING.**

With these amendments, we support SB 694. Thanks for your consideration.