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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on
Children, Youth, and Families

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Mary-Dulany James
In Support of SB 811 – Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and
Expanded Reentry Services – Extension of Report Deadline and Task Force
Before the House Judiciary Committee
March 25th, 2025**

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and members of the committee,

In the 2024 Legislative Session, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1036/House Bill 1037, which established a task force that examines re-entry services in the state and the feasibility of creating a Division of Returning Citizens within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The bill passed both chambers unanimously.

The task force began its work in October of 2024, and it quickly became evident that the scope and the amount of work needed to adequately address the needs of Maryland's returning citizens will require time beyond the report due date.

I come before you today presenting Senate Bill 811, which simply requests an extension on the original submission deadline of the task force report from December 31st, 2025, to December 31st, 2026. This extension will allow for a comprehensive assessment and thorough report from the task force regarding Maryland's commitment to successful re-entry and reduced recidivism.

The bill as introduced set the deadline as October 31st, 2026. However, this was a drafting error as the intent was always to extend the deadline by one year. To address this oversight, the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee amended the bill to instead set the deadline as December 31st, 2026. It is my hope that the House Judiciary Committee will be accepting of this amendment to ensure that both chambers pass the bill in the same posture.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 811 and ask for a Favorable Report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary-Dulany James".

Mary-Dulany James
Senator, Harford County