

JHEANELLE WILKINS
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Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Rules and Executive Nominations
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

FEBRUARY 4, 2026

**House Bill 0115- Election Law – Individuals Released From State Correctional Facilities –
Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration**

Dear Colleagues,

I am proud to introduce **House Bill 0115 – Election Law – Individuals Released From State Correctional Facilities – Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration**. This bill ensures that eligible returning citizens are able to fully and immediately reenter civic life without unnecessary systematic barriers.

House Bill 0115 requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to electronically transmit the names and new residential addresses of individuals released from state correctional facilities to the State Board of Elections (SBE). Upon receipt, the SBE will identify individuals who were previously registered and restore their voter registration, update their address, and also assign an active voter status.

Although Maryland law requires restoration of voting rights immediately upon release from incarceration, too many returning citizens remain effectively disenfranchised due to confusion, lack of information, or administrative obstacles. This bill operationalizes existing law by making voter registration proactive and reliable, rather than placing this burden on individuals at one of the most vulnerable transition points in their lives.

House Bill 0115 strengthens our democracy by closing the voter registration gap for eligible returning citizens and ensuring that the right to vote is not lost due to bureaucratic delay. Automatic restoration promotes fairness, efficiency, ease, and civic reintegration while preserving individual choice through notice and opt-out provisions. **House Bill 0115** would bridge the voter registration gap for eligible returning citizens.

I urge the committee to give a **favorable vote for House Bill 0115- Election Law – Individuals Released From State Correctional Facilities – Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jheanelle Wilkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins