

SENATE BILL 1036

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4lr2591
CF HB 1037

By: **Senator West**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 29, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded**
3 **Reentry Services – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning
5 Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services; requiring the Task Force to submit a
6 certain report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally
7 relating to the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and
8 Expanded Reentry Services.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
10 That:

11 (a) There is a Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and
12 Expanded Reentry Services.

13 (b) The Task Force consists of:

14 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
15 the Senate;

16 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
17 House;

18 (3) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
19 Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



- 1 (4) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
2 Secretary's designee;
- 3 (5) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee;
- 4 (6) the Secretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;
- 5 (7) the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee;
- 6 (8) the Public Defender, or the Public Defender's designee; ~~and~~
- 7 (9) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;
- 8 (10) a member of the Division of Parole and Probation in the Department of
9 Public Safety and Correctional Services, designated by the Secretary of Public Safety and
10 Correctional Services; and
- 11 ~~(9)~~ (11) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 12 (i) one individual who was formerly incarcerated in a State
13 correctional facility;
- 14 (ii) one individual who is the family member of a male individual
15 who is currently incarcerated in a State correctional facility;
- 16 (iii) one individual who is the family member of a female individual
17 who is currently incarcerated in a State correctional facility;
- 18 (iv) one representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys'
19 Association, recommended by the President of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association;
- 20 (v) one representative of the Lived Experience Advisory Committee;
- 21 (vi) one representative of Maryland Legal Aid;
- 22 (vii) one representative of Life After Release;
- 23 (viii) one representative of the Maryland Reentry Resource Center;
- 24 (ix) one representative of the Maryland Equitable Justice
25 Collaborative, recommended by the cochairs of the Maryland Equitable Justice
26 Collaborative;
- 27 (x) three representatives from county workforce development
28 programs;

1 (xi) two representatives from county reentry organizations; and

2 (xii) two representatives of a nonprofit organization focused on
3 reentry of incarcerated individuals.

4 (c) The members of the Task Force shall elect a chair from among the members
5 of the Task Force.

6 (d) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide staff
7 for the Task Force.

8 (e) A member of the Task Force:

9 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

10 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
11 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

12 (f) A member of the Task Force serves at the pleasure of the person who
13 appointed the member.

14 (g) At the first meeting of the Task Force that occurs on or after June 1, 2024, the
15 Task Force shall vote to adopt a code of conduct providing for the acceptable conduct of
16 Task Force members.

17 ~~(h)~~ (h) The Task Force shall:

18 (1) identify and assess the reentry services that exist in the State;

19 (2) identify gaps in reentry services currently provided in the State;

20 (3) assess the markers of successful reentry;

21 (4) ensure that the recommendations of the Task Force equally consider
22 returning citizens regardless of gender;

23 (5) develop a plan to establish a Division of Returning Citizens within the
24 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to:

25 (i) assess measures of reentry success;

26 (ii) coordinate existing Department and community reentry
27 programs;

28 (iii) remove barriers to reentry;

29 (iv) empower residents to break the cycle of recidivism; and

1 (v) connect incarcerated individuals to pre-release and postrelease
2 assistance; and

3 (6) develop a plan to expand the following services for individuals in the
4 State after release from incarceration:

5 (i) housing services, including:

6 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

7 2. assistance in finding a halfway house, family home, or
8 apartment;

9 3. transportation to an individual's home on release;

10 4. referral to first-time home buyer programs; and

11 5. other housing services currently provided by the Re-entry
12 and Transition Services Unit;

13 (ii) employment services, including:

14 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

15 2. employment and entrepreneur training;

16 3. resume assistance;

17 4. assistance obtaining vital documents and State
18 identification;

19 5. connection to employers; and

20 6. other employment services currently provided by the
21 Re-entry and Transition Services Unit;

22 (iii) socialization services, including:

23 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

24 2. financial literacy training;

25 3. connection with a mentor;

26 4. technology acclimation and training; and

1 5. other socialization services currently provided by the
2 Re-entry and Transition Services Unit;

3 (iv) health services, including:

4 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

5 2. connection to:

6 A. a primary care provider;

7 B. mental health services;

8 C. dental care;

9 D. anger management therapy;

10 E. substance abuse counseling; and

11 F. nutrition counseling; and

12 3. other health services currently provided by the Re-entry
13 and Transition Services Unit;

14 (v) legal assistance, including:

15 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

16 2. assistance with obtaining child support;

17 3. assistance with expungement of criminal records; and

18 4. other legal services currently provided by the Re-entry
19 and Transition Services Unit;

20 (vi) education services, including:

21 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

22 2. connection to GED programs;

23 3. connection to postsecondary education; and

24 4. other education services currently provided by the
25 Re-entry and Transition Services Unit;

26 (vii) coordination with county reentry programs, including:

- 1 1. notification of release to a home county; and
- 2 2. assistance acquiring dental and health records;
- 3 (viii) other services identified at the time of the trial, during
- 4 incarceration, or on release of an individual who is being released from incarceration; and
- 5 (ix) other services currently provided by the Re-entry and Transition
- 6 Services Unit.

7 ~~(e)~~ (i) On or before December 31, 2025, the Task Force shall, in accordance with §
 8 2-1257 of the State Government Article, submit a report to the General Assembly of its
 9 findings and recommendations.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
 11 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June
 12 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
 13 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.