
By: **Delegates Marriott, Benson, Cole, D. Davis, Grosfeld, Hecht, Howard, A. Jones, Kirk, Nathan-Pulliam, Phillips, and Proctor**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2000

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Assess the Needs of Newly Released Inmates**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Assess the Needs of Newly Released
4 Inmates; specifying the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for
5 staffing of the Task Force; providing for certain means of obtaining funding for
6 the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to make reports to the General
7 Assembly on or before certain dates; and generally relating to the establishment
8 of a Task Force to Assess the Needs of Newly Released Inmates.

9 BY adding to
10 Article - Correctional Services
11 Section 9-612
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1999 Volume)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article - Correctional Services**

17 9-612.

18 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO ASSESS THE NEEDS OF NEWLY RELEASED
19 INMATES.

20 (B) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

21 (1) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE
22 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

23 (2) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF
24 THE SENATE;

25 (3) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
26 OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

1 (4) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF
2 PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

3 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DIVISION OF PAROLE AND
4 PROBATION; AND

5 (II) TWO WARDENS FROM LOCAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES; AND

6 (5) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

7 (I) TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FORMER INMATES OF THE
8 DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS;

9 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE PRISONER'S AID
10 ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND;

11 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INMATE'S ADVOCACY
12 ORGANIZATION;

13 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
14 PROGRAM;

15 (V) A SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROVIDER SKILLED IN
16 SERVING A CULTURALLY DIVERSE CLIENTELE;

17 (VI) A FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER;

18 (VII) A COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIAL; AND

19 (VIII) TWO MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

20 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT AN ADMINISTRATOR AND A
21 COORDINATOR FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE.

22 (D) THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
23 SHALL COORDINATE WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO PROVIDE STAFFING FOR THE
24 TASK FORCE.

25 (E) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE EACH MONTH.

26 (F) (1) THE TASK FORCE MAY APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND USE GRANTS OR
27 FINANCIAL OR OTHER AID FROM ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOURCE TO ACCOMPLISH
28 THE DUTIES PROVIDED FOR IN THIS SECTION.

29 (2) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION,
30 BUT SHALL BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL
31 REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE STATE BUDGET.

32 (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

1 (1) REVIEW EXISTING STUDIES OF THE NEEDS OF NEWLY RELEASED
2 INMATES;

3 (2) CONDUCT STUDIES AS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE THE NEEDS OF
4 NEWLY RELEASED INMATES;

5 (3) HEAR TESTIMONY ON PROBLEMS FACED BY NEWLY RELEASED
6 INMATES FROM LOCAL AND NATIONAL EXPERTS INCLUDING:

7 (I) WORKERS FROM CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES;

8 (II) STAFF OF TRANSITIONAL SERVICES PROGRAMS;

9 (III) MEMBERS OF PRISON MINISTRIES; AND

10 (IV) FORMER INMATES;

11 (4) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF
12 NEWLY RELEASED INMATES;

13 (5) PRIORITIZE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE; AND

14 (6) COMPOSE A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ADDRESSING THE FINDINGS
15 OF THE TASK FORCE CONCERNING THE NEEDS OF NEWLY RELEASED INMATES.

16 (H) (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE AN INTERIM REPORT OF ITS
17 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SUBJECT TO §
18 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2001.

19 (2) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS
20 AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE
21 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2002.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 3 months, and at
24 the end of December 31, 2002, with no further action required by the General
25 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.