

BY: Chairman, House Judiciary Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 559, AS AMENDED
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

In the Judiciary Committee Amendments (HB0559/332211/1), strike Amendment Nos. 2 and 3 in their entirety.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1 of the bill, strike in their entirety lines 10 through 14, inclusive; and in line 16, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On pages 1 through 3 of the bill, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 17 on page 1 through line 32 on page 3, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) There is a Task Force to Assess the Needs of Newly Released Inmates.

(b) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services or the Secretary’s designee;

(4) The following members appointed by the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services:

(Over)

- (i) One representative from the Division of Parole and Probation; and
- (ii) One warden from the Division of Correction; and

(5) The following members appointed by the Governor:

- (i) Two individuals who are former inmates of the Division of Correction;
- (ii) One representative from the Prisoners Aid Association of Maryland;
- (iii) One representative of an inmates' advocacy organization;
- (iv) One representative from a transitional housing program;
- (v) A substance abuse treatment provider skilled in serving a culturally
diverse clientele;
- (vi) A forensic mental health provider;
- (vii) A county health official;
- (viii) One member of a religious organization;
- (ix) One member from the Open Society Foundation;
- (x) Two wardens from local jails;
- (xi) One representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce; and
- (xii) One representative from organized labor.

(c) The Governor shall appoint the Chairperson of the Task Force.

(d) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall coordinate with other State agencies to provide staffing for the Task Force.

(e) The Task Force shall meet at least once each month.

(f) (1) The Task Force may apply for, accept, and use grants or financial or other aid

from any public or private source to accomplish the duties provided for in this section.

(2) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided for in the State budget.

(g) The Task Force shall assess the needs of newly released inmates from correctional institutions by:

(1) Examining the scope of the problem of newly released inmates and the number of programs that exist to address the problem;

(2) Reviewing the report prepared by the Task Force to study the health care needs of inmates in transition from correctional institutions under Article 41, § 18-318 of the Code;

(3) Hearing testimony from local and national experts on problems faced by newly released inmates, including:

(i) Workers from correctional facilities;

(ii) Staff of transitional services programs;

(iii) Members of prison ministries; and

(iv) Former inmates;

(4) Hearing required reports from all State agencies that assess the impact of their respective programs on newly released inmates, and making recommendations for improving their services to newly released inmates;

(5) Making recommendations on how to address the problems of newly released inmates;

(6) Prioritizing the recommendations of the Task Force; and

(Over)

(7) Composing a comprehensive report addressing the findings of the Task Force concerning the needs of newly released inmates.

(h) The Task Force shall issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on or before June 30, 2002.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 3 of the bill, in line 34, strike “October” and substitute “July”; in the same line, strike “2 years and 3 months” and substitute “1 year”; and in line 35, strike “December 31, 2003” and substitute “June 30, 2002”.