

HOUSE BILL 559

Unofficial Copy  
E4  
HB 383/00 - JUD

2001 Regular Session  
11r2077

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By: **Delegates Marriott, Brown, Burns, Cane, C. Davis, Dobson, Gladden,  
Harrison, Hecht, Howard, V. Jones, Kirk, Menes, Montague, Oaks,  
Paige, Patterson, Petzold, Phillips, Proctor, and Rawlings**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2001

Assigned to: Judiciary

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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; providing for the termination of this Act;  
8 and generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force to Assess the Needs  
9 of Newly Released Inmates.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Correctional Services  
12 Section 9-612  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1999 Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Correctional Services**

18 9-612.

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

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

22 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE  
23 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

24 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF  
25 THE SENATE;

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

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

5 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DIVISION OF PAROLE AND  
6 PROBATION; AND

7 (II) ONE WARDEN FROM THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION; AND

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

9 (I) TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FORMER INMATES OF THE  
10 DIVISION OF CORRECTION;

11 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE PRISONER'S AID  
12 ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND;

13 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INMATE'S ADVOCACY  
14 ORGANIZATION;

15 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A TRANSITIONAL HOUSING  
16 PROGRAM;

17 (V) A SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROVIDER SKILLED IN  
18 SERVING A CULTURALLY DIVERSE CLIENTELE;

19 (VI) A FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER;

20 (VII) A COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIAL;

21 (VIII) ONE MEMBER OF A RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION;

22 (IX) ONE MEMBER FROM THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION; AND

23 (X) TWO WARDENS FROM LOCAL JAILS.

24 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE.

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

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

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

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

4 (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ASSESS THE NEEDS OF NEWLY RELEASED  
5 INMATES FROM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY:

6 (1) EXAMINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM OF NEWLY RELEASED  
7 INMATES AND THE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS THAT EXIST TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM;

8 (2) REVIEWING THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY  
9 THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF INMATES IN TRANSITION FROM CORRECTIONAL  
10 INSTITUTIONS UNDER ARTICLE 41, § 18-318 OF THE CODE;

11 (3) HEARING TESTIMONY FROM LOCAL AND NATIONAL EXPERTS ON  
12 PROBLEMS FACED BY NEWLY RELEASED INMATES INCLUDING:

13 (I) WORKERS FROM CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES;

14 (II) STAFF OF TRANSITIONAL SERVICES PROGRAMS;

15 (III) MEMBERS OF PRISON MINISTRIES; AND

16 (IV) FORMER INMATES;

17 (4) HEARING REQUIRED REPORTS FROM ALL STATE AGENCIES THAT  
18 ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PROGRAMS ON NEWLY RELEASED  
19 INMATES, AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THEIR SERVICES TO  
20 NEWLY RELEASED INMATES;

21 (5) MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS  
22 OF NEWLY RELEASED INMATES;

23 (6) PRIORITIZING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE; AND

24 (7) COMPOSING A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ADDRESSING THE  
25 FINDINGS OF THE TASK FORCE CONCERNING THE NEEDS OF NEWLY RELEASED  
26 INMATES.

27 (H) (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE AN INTERIM REPORT OF ITS  
28 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SUBJECT TO §  
29 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2002.

30 (2) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS  
31 AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE  
32 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2003.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
34 October 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 3 months, and at  
35 the end of December 31, 2003, with no further action required by the General  
36 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

