

# HOUSE BILL 637

E4

9lr1657  
CF 9lr3027

---

By: **Delegates Levi, Anderson, Barnes, Braveboy, Burns, Carr, Carter, Conaway, Dumais, Gutierrez, Healey, Kramer, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Reznik, Riley, Robinson, and F. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009

Assigned to: Judiciary

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Prisoner Reentry**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Prisoner Reentry; providing for the  
4 membership of the Task Force; providing for the designation of a chair of the  
5 Task Force; providing for staff for the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the  
6 Task Force from receiving compensation; authorizing a member of the Task  
7 Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force  
8 to study certain issues; requiring the Task Force to report its interim findings to  
9 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring  
10 the Task Force to report its final findings and recommendations to the Governor  
11 and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the  
12 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task  
13 Force on Prisoner Reentry.

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – Correctional Services  
16 Section 2–501  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

19 Preamble

20 WHEREAS, There is a growing population of criminal offenders who return to  
21 their communities and commit new crimes; and

22 WHEREAS, An important component of breaking the cycle of criminal  
23 recidivism is a successful prisoner reentry program; and

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States passed with bipartisan support and the President of the United States signed on April 9, 2008, the Second Chance Act of 2007, an Act that provides grants to government agencies to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victim support, and other services that can help reduce recidivism; and

WHEREAS, One of the conditions of receiving financial assistance under the federal Second Chance Act of 2007 is the establishment of a Task Force on Prisoner Reentry; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly that the appropriate State agencies should apply for federal financial assistance provided under the federal Second Chance Act of 2007; now, therefore,

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

#### **Article – Correctional Services**

##### **2-501.**

(A) **THERE IS A TASK FORCE ON PRISONER REENTRY.**

(B) **THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING 17 MEMBERS:**

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

(2) **TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

(3) **TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH RELEVANT EXPERTISE IN THE PROVISION OF REENTRY SERVICES TO ADULT OFFENDERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;**

(4) **TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH RELEVANT EXPERTISE IN THE PROVISION OF REENTRY SERVICES TO JUVENILE OFFENDERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;**

(5) **TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE FORMERLY COMMITTED TO A STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; AND**

(6) **THE FOLLOWING SEVEN MEMBERS, WHO SHALL SERVE EX OFFICIO:**

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

3 (II) THE SECRETARY OF JUVENILE SERVICES, OR THE  
4 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

5 (III) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, OR THE  
6 SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

7 (IV) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES, OR THE  
8 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

9 (V) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE,  
10 OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

11 (VI) THE SECRETARY OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND  
12 REGULATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE; AND

13 (VII) THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTION, OR THE  
14 COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE.

15 (C) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL  
16 SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE SHALL:

17 (1) CHAIR THE TASK FORCE; AND

18 (2) PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE TASK FORCE FROM THE  
19 DEPARTMENT.

20 (D) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION  
21 AS A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
22 EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED  
23 IN THE STATE BUDGET.

24 (E) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

25 (1) EXAMINE WAYS TO POOL RESOURCES AND FUNDING STREAMS  
26 TO PROMOTE LOWER RECIDIVISM RATES FOR RETURNING OFFENDERS AND  
27 MINIMIZE THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF OFFENDERS' TIME IN PRISON, JAIL, OR A  
28 JUVENILE FACILITY ON FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES OF OFFENDERS BY  
29 COLLECTING DATA AND BEST PRACTICES IN OFFENDER REENTRY FROM  
30 DEMONSTRATION GRANTEE AND OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS;

1           (2)    ANALYZE THE STATUTORY, REGULATORY, RULES-BASED, AND  
2 PRACTICE-BASED HURDLES TO REINTEGRATION OF ADULT AND JUVENILE  
3 OFFENDERS INTO THE COMMUNITY;

4           (3)    INVESTIGATE GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA TO TRACK  
5 OUTCOMES OF INMATE REENTRY PROGRAM PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING  
6 PROGRAM APPROVALS, DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAM PARTICIPATION, AND PROGRAM  
7 GRADUATION AND OTHER TYPES OF PROGRAM COMPLETION AND  
8 NONCOMPLETION;

9           (4)    RESEARCH LONGITUDINAL DATA TRACKING OF THE PRE- AND  
10 POST-RELEASE IMPACT OF REENTRY PROGRAMS;

11           (5)    INVESTIGATE THE NUMBER OF IDLE INMATES IN EACH STATE  
12 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; AND

13           (6)    DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC REENTRY PLAN AS  
14 SPECIFIED UNDER THE FEDERAL SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007.

15           (F)    (1)    THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT AN INTERIM REPORT OF ITS  
16 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE  
17 WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL  
18 ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2010.

19                   (2)    THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT OF ITS  
20 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE  
21 WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL  
22 ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2011.

23           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 July 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30,  
25 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
26 abrogated and of no further force and effect.