

# HOUSE BILL 637

E4

EMERGENCY BILL

9lr1657  
CF SB 908

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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

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 23, 2009

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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; making this Act an  
12 emergency measure; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally  
13 relating to the establishment of a Task 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

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

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

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

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

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 **2-501.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           **(6) TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO REPRESENT EMPLOYER**  
2 **ORGANIZATIONS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;**

3           **(7) TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO REPRESENT ORGANIZED**  
4 **LABOR, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;**

5           **(8) UP TO FOUR MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, WHO**  
6 **REPRESENT LOCAL REENTRY TASK FORCES THAT HAVE REVIEWED OR ARE IN**  
7 **THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING LOCAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES RELATING TO**  
8 **THE EMPLOYMENT OF EX-OFFENDERS, INCLUDING ONE FROM PRINCE**  
9 **GEORGE'S COUNTY AND ONE FROM BALTIMORE CITY; AND**

10           **(6) (9) THE FOLLOWING ~~SEVEN~~ MEMBERS, WHO SHALL SERVE**  
11 **EX OFFICIO:**

12                   **(I) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND**  
13 **CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

14                   **(II) THE SECRETARY OF JUVENILE SERVICES, OR THE**  
15 **SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

16                   **(III) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, OR THE**  
17 **SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

18                   **(IV) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES, OR THE**  
19 **SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

20                   **(V) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE,**  
21 **OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

22                   **(VI) THE SECRETARY OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND**  
23 **REGULATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE; ~~AND~~**

24                   **(VII) THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTION, OR THE**  
25 **COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE; AND**

26                   **(VIII) THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE**  
27 **ADMINISTRATION, OR THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESIGNEE; AND**

28                   **(IX) ONE MEMBER FROM THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE**  
29 **INVESTMENT BOARD, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.**

30           **(C) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL**  
31 **SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE SHALL:**

(1) CHAIR THE TASK FORCE; AND

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

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

(E) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE

1 WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2011.

3 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect~~  
4 ~~July 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30,~~  
5 ~~2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be~~  
6 ~~abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
8 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,  
9 has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members  
10 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from  
11 the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through June 30, 2012, and, at the end  
12 of June 30, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
13 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.