

# SENATE BILL 908

E4

9lr3027  
CF HB 637

By: **Senators Muse, Conway, Exum, Gladden, Harrington, Jones, Kelley, Peters, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2009

Assigned to: Rules

## 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

24 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States passed with bipartisan support  
25 and the President of the United States signed on April 9, 2008, the Second Chance Act

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 of 2007, an Act that provides grants to government agencies to provide employment  
2 assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring,  
3 victim support, and other services that can help reduce recidivism; and

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

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

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

12 **Article – Correctional Services**

13 **2-501.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1                   (II) THE SECRETARY OF JUVENILE SERVICES, OR THE  
2 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

3                   (III) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, OR THE  
4 SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

5                   (IV) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES, OR THE  
6 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

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

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

11                  (VII) THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTION, OR THE  
12 COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE.

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

15                   (1) CHAIR THE TASK FORCE; AND

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

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

22           (E) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 July 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30,  
22 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
23 abrogated and of no further force and effect.