

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 637  
Judiciary

(Delegate Levi, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

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Task Force on Prisoner Reentry

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This emergency bill establishes a Task Force on Prisoner Reentry. The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the Secretary's designee, must chair the task force and provide staff support for the task force from the department. An interim report to the Governor and the General Assembly is required by December 31, 2010 and a final report of findings and recommendations is required by December 31, 2011.

The bill terminates June 30, 2012.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The task force must:

- 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;

- analyze the statutory, regulatory, rules-based, and practice-based hurdles to reintegration of adult and juvenile offenders into the community;
- 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 non-completion;
- research longitudinal data tracking of the pre- and post-release impact of reentry programs;
- investigate the number of idle inmates in each state correctional facility; and
- develop a comprehensive strategic reentry plan as specified under the federal Second Chance Act of 2007.

**Background:** The federal Second Chance Act is designed to improve outcomes for people returning to the community from prisons and jails, nationwide. On April 9, 2008, President Bush signed the Second Chance Act into law (Public Law 110-199). The Act authorizes federal grants to government agencies and community and faith-based organizations to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims support, and other services that can help reduce re-offending and violations of probation and parole.

Maryland's recidivism rate has been hovering near the 50% mark for several years.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 908 (Senator Muse, *et al.*) - Judicial Proceedings.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services,  
Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2009  
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 30, 2009

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