

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 1574

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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**Prince George's County Pretrial Release, Work Release, and Diversion Programs  
Task Force  
PG 305-17**

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This bill establishes the Prince George's County Pretrial Release, Work Release, and Diversion Programs Task Force. The Prince George's County Department of Corrections must provide staff for the task force. By December 1, 2017, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the members of the Prince George's County Delegation.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017, and terminates June 30, 2018.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** Although Prince George's County did not respond to requests for information, any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for Prince George's County are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

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

- how pretrial release programs, work release programs, and diversion programs in other jurisdictions that offer alternatives to detention are organized and operate;
- whether the programs would benefit the criminal justice process in Prince George's County;
- what type of offenders should be eligible for the programs; and
- what would be required to establish the programs in Prince George's County.

The task force must make recommendations regarding the establishment of a pretrial release program, work release program, and diversion program in Prince George's County.

A member of the task force may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

**Current Law:** Prince George's County, under statute, may operate a work release program. The administrator may allow an inmate sentenced to imprisonment in a detention center after being convicted of a crime or found in contempt of court to leave actual confinement to (1) seek or work at gainful, private employment; (2) participate in a training or rehabilitation program; or (3) attend educational or vocational institutions in the county.

When an inmate is not employed or otherwise participating in a work release program, the inmate must be confined in the detention center in the same manner as any other inmate committed to the custody of the administrator. If an inmate violates a trust or a condition that the administrator establishes in the rules for conduct or employment, the inmate is subject to removal from the work release program, and, after an administrative hearing, subject to cancellation of any earned diminution of the inmate's term of confinement. In addition, an inmate participating in the work release program is subject to specified deductions from the inmate's earnings.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** HB 1126 of 2016, as amended, passed the House, was referred to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and had no further action taken on it.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Office of the Public Defender; State's Attorneys' Association; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 13, 2017  
mm/lgc Third Reader - March 21, 2017

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