A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Correctional Services – Correctional Officers – Minimum Age Requirement

FOR the purpose of altering the minimum age requirement for employment as a

 correctional officer in any unit of the Division of Correction, any unit of the Division
of Pretrial Detention and Services, or the Patuxent Institution within the

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; requiring the Secretary of

Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt certain regulations; and generally

relating to correctional officers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Correctional Services

Section 2–109

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Correctional Services

2–109.

(a) The Secretary shall adopt regulations for the office of the Secretary.

(b) (1) The Secretary shall review regulations proposed by a unit in the

Department.

(2) The Secretary may approve, disapprove, or revise regulations proposed

by a unit in the Department.
Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary shall adopt regulations to govern the policies and management of correctional facilities in the Department in accordance with Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article.

Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to a guideline pertaining to the routine internal management of correctional facilities in the Division of Correction.

Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the Secretary shall adopt regulations that provide for a requirement that:

1. a correctional officer hired on or after October 1, 2020, for employment in any unit of the Division of Correction shall be at least 21 years old; and

2. a correctional officer hired on or after October 1, 2020, for employment in any unit of the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services or the Patuxent Institution shall be at least 21 years old.

The regulations adopted under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph shall exempt any honorably discharged veteran or reserve member of the United States armed forces from the minimum age requirement.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.