By: Delegates Moon and Clippinger
Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022
Assigned to: Judiciary and Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Justice and Public Health Prioritization Council

FOR the purpose of establishing the Justice and Public Health Prioritization Council to
develop, and take other actions related to the development of, a statewide framework
of sentencing and correction policies for a certain purpose; and generally relating to
the Justice and Public Health Prioritization Council.

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

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Council” means the Justice and Public Health Prioritization Council.

(3) “Executive Director” means the Executive Director of the Governor’s
Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

(4) “Office” means the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and
Victim Services.

(b) There is a Justice and Public Health Prioritization Council in the Office.

(c) The Council consists of the following members:

(1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
of the Senate;

(2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
the House;

(3) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary’s designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the Secretary’s designee;

(5) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary’s designee;

(6) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General’s designee;

(7) the Public Defender of Maryland, or the Public Defender’s designee;

(8) a representative of the Maryland Judiciary, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

(9) the following members, appointed by the Executive Director:

(i) a representative of a local correctional facility recommended by the Maryland Association of Counties;

(ii) an employee of a local correctional facility, recommended by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees;

(iii) a representative of a local law enforcement agency;

(iv) a representative of the Maryland State’s Attorneys’ Association;

(v) a representative of a hospital, recommended by the Maryland Hospital Association; and

(vi) any other member with expertise relevant to the work of the Council.

(d) The Executive Director shall be the chair of the Council.

(e) The Office shall provide staff for the Council.

(f) A member of the Council:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Council; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations.

(g) The Council shall:

(1) convene an advisory stakeholder group that includes organizations with experience in:
(i) criminal justice policy reform;

(ii) trauma–informed approaches to behavioral health;

(iii) substance use and harm reduction;

(iv) crisis intervention teams;

(v) problem–solving courts;

(vi) advocating for groups with disproportionate contact with the criminal justice system;

(vii) advocating for groups with behavioral health issues, including substance use issues, within the criminal justice system;

(viii) advocating for victims of crime; and

(ix) community conferencing and mediation for restorative justice;

(2) working with the advisory stakeholder group, conduct roundtable discussion forums seeking public input in all geographic regions of the State;

(3) using a data–driven approach, develop a statewide framework of sentencing and corrections policies to:

(i) further reduce the State’s incarcerated population;

(ii) reduce spending on corrections; and

(iii) reinvest in infrastructure, services, and strategies to prioritize public health, increase public safety, and reduce recidivism; and

(4) request technical assistance from the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the Public Safety Performance Project of the Pew Center on the States to develop the policy framework under item (3) of this subsection.

(h) On or before December 31, 2022, the Council shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the findings and recommendations of the Council.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through June 30, 2023, and, at the end of June 30, 2023,
this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.