

# HOUSE BILL 37

E4

4lr1450

(PRE-FILED)

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By: ~~Delegate Bartlett~~ Delegates Bartlett, Williams, Crutchfield, Embry, Toles, Phillips, Taylor, Simpson, Conaway, and Kaufman

Requested: November 1, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Reentry Services for Women~~ Services for Formerly Incarcerated Women –  
3 Commission and Pilot Program – Establishment

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on ~~Reentry~~ Formerly  
5 Incarcerated Women overseen by the ~~Department of Public Safety and Correctional~~  
6 ~~Services~~ Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to create  
7 a comprehensive ~~reentry~~ services for formerly incarcerated women;  
8 establishing the ~~Reentry~~ Pilot Program for Formerly Incarcerated Women to connect  
9 formerly incarcerated women to supportive services; and generally relating to  
10 ~~reentry~~ services for formerly incarcerated women.

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

13 (a) There is a Commission on ~~Reentry~~ Services for Formerly Incarcerated Women.

14 (b) The purpose of the Commission is to create a comprehensive ~~reentry~~ services for formerly incarcerated women.  
15

16 (c) The ~~Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services~~ Governor shall  
17 appoint ~~nine~~ members to the Commission, including:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1           (1) ~~at least one of whom shall be a~~ reentry professional with direct  
2 experience providing services to women within the immediately preceding 7 years;

3           (2) ~~and at least one of whom shall be a~~ woman who was previously  
4 incarcerated;

5           (3) three county-level agency leaders representing corrections, human  
6 services, and the health department, respectively;

7           (4) a representative of the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women;

8           (5) a representative of the Maryland Department of Labor;

9           (6) a licensed clinical social worker;

10          (7) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
11 House; and

12          (8) one member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate.

13          (d) The Commission shall be cochaired by a member who is a reentry professional  
14 and a member who is a woman who was previously incarcerated.

15          (e) ~~The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services~~ Governor's Office  
16 of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services shall provide staff for the Commission.

17          (f) A member of the Commission:

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

19           (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
20 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

21          (g) The Commission shall:

22           (1) study the unique and specific challenges women face when returning to  
23 communities after incarceration or detention;

24           (2) gather ~~data~~ information from counties regarding their current  
25 responses to the challenges formerly incarcerated or detained women face upon reentry;

26           (3) identify all existing programs available to currently and formerly  
27 incarcerated women in State agencies;

28           ~~(3)~~ (4) identify service gaps for women who were formerly incarcerated or  
29 detained;

1           ~~(4)~~ (5) conduct listening sessions with women who were formerly incarcerated  
2 or detained in areas of the State determined to be high-need; and

3           ~~(5)~~ (6) create a comprehensive 5-year ~~reentry~~ plan to address the needs of and  
4 create solutions for women who were formerly incarcerated or detained in the State.

5           (h) On or before June 30, 2025, the Commission shall report its findings and  
6 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
7 Government Article, the General Assembly.

8           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

9           (a) In this section, “Pilot Program” means the ~~Reentry~~ Pilot Program for Formerly  
10 Incarcerated Women.

11           (b) There is a ~~Reentry~~ Pilot Program for Formerly Incarcerated Women.

12           (c) The purpose of the Pilot Program is to connect formerly incarcerated women  
13 to supportive services.

14           (d) ~~The Re-entry and Transition Services Unit within the Department of Public~~  
15 ~~Safety and Correctional Services shall oversee the Pilot Program~~ shall be overseen by the  
16 Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

17           (e) The Pilot Program shall:

18           (1) issue grants in ~~up to~~ three jurisdictions to provide ~~reentry~~ navigation  
19 services to women who were formerly incarcerated;

20           (2) ~~engage local reentry navigators~~ partner with local organizations to  
21 assist women with overcoming barriers that prevent them from identifying and accessing  
22 supportive services following incarceration;

23           ~~(3) provide training and technical assistance to local reentry navigators~~  
24 ~~from a provider selected by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; and~~

25           ~~(4)~~ (3) ensure that local ~~reentry navigators~~ organizations are helping formerly  
26 incarcerated women access ~~reentry~~ local services provided by:

27           (i) the Maryland Department of Health;

28           (ii) the Department of Housing and Community Development;

29           (iii) the Department of Human Services;

30           (iv) the Maryland Department of Labor; and

1 (v) any other designated ~~county~~ local unit or office the Pilot  
2 Program deems necessary; and

3 (4) ensure that each organization identified in item (3) of this subsection  
4 works in partnership to ensure services are provided to formerly incarcerated women.

5 (f) The Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services shall  
6 abide by its grant application processes when issuing grants as required under subsection  
7 (e)(1) of this section.

8 ~~(g)~~ (g) For fiscal year 2025, the Governor shall appropriate funds for the Pilot  
9 Program.

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
11 1, 2024. ~~It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2026,~~  
12 ~~this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and~~  
13 ~~of no further force and effect.~~

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.