

# HOUSE BILL 37

E4

4lr1450

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Bartlett**

Requested: November 1, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Reentry Services for Women – Commission and Pilot Program – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Reentry Services for Women overseen  
4 by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to create a  
5 comprehensive reentry plan for formerly incarcerated women; establishing the  
6 Reentry Pilot Program for Formerly Incarcerated Women to connect formerly  
7 incarcerated women to supportive services; and generally relating to reentry services  
8 for formerly incarcerated women.

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

11 (a) There is a Commission on Reentry Services for Women.

12 (b) The purpose of the Commission is to create a comprehensive reentry plan for  
13 formerly incarcerated women.

14 (c) The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall appoint nine  
15 members to the Commission, at least one of whom shall be a reentry professional and at  
16 least one of whom shall be a woman who was previously incarcerated.

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

19 (e) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide staff  
20 for the Commission.

21 (f) A member of the Commission:

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 (g) The Commission shall:

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

6 (2) gather data from counties regarding their current responses to the  
7 challenges formerly incarcerated or detained women face upon reentry;

8 (3) identify service gaps for women who were formerly incarcerated or  
9 detained;

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

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

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

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

18 (a) In this section, "Pilot Program" means the Reentry Pilot Program for Formerly  
19 Incarcerated Women.

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

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

23 (d) The Re-entry and Transition Services Unit within the Department of Public  
24 Safety and Correctional Services shall oversee the Pilot Program.

25 (e) The Pilot Program shall:

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

28 (2) engage local reentry navigators to assist women with overcoming  
29 barriers that prevent them from identifying and accessing supportive services following  
30 incarceration;

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

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

5                   (i)    the Maryland Department of Health;

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

7                   (iii)  the Department of Human Services;

8                   (iv)  the Maryland Department of Labor; and

9                   (v)   any other designated reentry unit or office the Pilot Program  
10 deems necessary.

11           (f)    For fiscal year 2025, the Governor shall appropriate funds for the Pilot  
12 Program.

13           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
14 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2026,  
15 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
16 of no further force and effect.