

HOUSE BILL 1037

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CF SB 1036

By: Delegates Taylor, Taveras, Boaf, Alston, Amprey, Anderton, Davis, Fennell, Henson, Ivey, Lehman, J. Long, Martinez, McCaskill, Pasteur, Phillips, Roberson, Roberts, Sample-Hughes, Schmidt, Simpson, Smith, Toles, Tomlinson, Turner, ~~and Woods~~ Woods, Embry, Conaway, Kaufman, Williams, and Crutchfield

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded**
3 **Reentry Services – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning
5 Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services; requiring the Task Force to submit a
6 certain report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally
7 relating to the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and
8 Expanded Reentry Services.

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

11 (a) There is a Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and
12 Expanded Reentry Services.

13 (b) The Task Force consists of:

14 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
15 the Senate;

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 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
2 House;

3 (3) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
4 Secretary's designee;

5 (4) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
6 Secretary's designee;

7 (5) the Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee;

8 (6) the Secretary of Human Services, or the Secretary's designee;

9 (7) the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee;

10 (8) the Public Defender, or the Public Defender's designee; ~~and~~

11 (9) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

12 (10) a member of the Division of Parole and Probation in the Department of
13 Public Safety and Correctional Services, designated by the Secretary of Public Safety and
14 Correctional Services; and

15 ~~(9)~~ (11) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

16 (i) one individual who was formerly incarcerated in a State
17 correctional facility;

18 (ii) one individual who is the family member of a male individual
19 who is currently incarcerated in a State correctional facility;

20 (iii) one individual who is the family member of a female individual
21 who is currently incarcerated in a State correctional facility;

22 (iv) one representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys'
23 Association, recommended by the President of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association;

24 (v) one representative of the Lived Experience Advisory Committee;

25 (vi) one representative of Maryland Legal Aid;

26 (vii) one representative of Life After Release;

27 (viii) one representative of the Maryland Reentry Resource Center;

1 (ix) one representative of the Maryland Equitable Justice
2 Collaborative, recommended by the cochairs of the Maryland Equitable Justice
3 Collaborative;

4 (x) three representatives from county workforce development
5 programs;

6 (xi) two representatives from county reentry organizations; and

7 (xii) two representatives of a nonprofit organization focused on
8 reentry of incarcerated individuals.

9 (c) The members of the Task Force shall elect a chair from among the members
10 of the Task Force.

11 (d) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide staff
12 for the Task Force.

13 (e) A member of the Task Force:

14 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

17 (f) A member of the Task Force serves at the pleasure of the person who
18 appointed the member.

19 (g) At the first meeting of the Task Force, the Task Force shall vote to adopt a
20 code of conduct providing for the acceptable conduct of Task Force members.

21 ~~(h)~~ (h) The Task Force shall:

22 (1) identify and assess the reentry services that exist in the State;

23 (2) identify gaps in reentry services currently provided in the State;

24 (3) assess the markers of successful reentry;

25 (4) ensure that the recommendations of the Task Force equally consider
26 returning citizens regardless of gender;

27 (5) develop a plan to establish a Division of Returning Citizens within the
28 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to:

29 (i) assess measures of reentry success;

- 1 (ii) coordinate existing Department and community reentry
2 programs;
- 3 (iii) remove barriers to reentry;
- 4 (iv) empower residents to break the cycle of recidivism; and
- 5 (v) connect incarcerated individuals to pre-release and postrelease
6 assistance; and
- 7 (6) develop a plan to expand the following services for individuals in the
8 State after release from incarceration:
- 9 (i) housing services, including:
- 10 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;
- 11 2. assistance in finding a halfway house, family home, or
12 apartment;
- 13 3. transportation to an individual's home on release;
- 14 4. referral to first-time home buyer programs; and
- 15 5. other housing services currently provided by the Re-entry
16 and Transition Services Unit;
- 17 (ii) employment services, including:
- 18 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;
- 19 2. employment and entrepreneur training;
- 20 3. resume assistance;
- 21 4. assistance obtaining vital documents and State
22 identification;
- 23 5. connection to employers; and
- 24 6. other employment services currently provided by the
25 Re-entry and Transition Services Unit;
- 26 (iii) socialization services, including:
- 27 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

1 3. connection to postsecondary education; and
 2 4. other education services currently provided by the
 3 Re-entry and Transition Services Unit;

4 (vii) coordination with county reentry programs, including:

- 5 1. notification of release to a home county; and
- 6 2. assistance acquiring dental and health records;

7 (viii) other services identified at the time of the trial, during
 8 incarceration, or on release of an individual who is being released from incarceration; and

9 (ix) other services currently provided by the Re-entry and Transition
 10 Services Unit.

11 ~~(e)~~ (i) On or before December 31, 2025, the Task Force shall, in accordance with §
 12 2-1257 of the State Government Article, submit a report to the General Assembly of its
 13 findings and recommendations.

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.