

HOUSE BILL 1247

E5

5lr2345

By: **Delegate Otto**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Correctional Services – Parole, Commutation of Sentence, Pardon, and**
3 **Remission of Sentence – Notification**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
5 to notify a victim or victim’s representative by certified mail that a parole release
6 hearing has been scheduled or that an incarcerated individual is being considered
7 for a commutation of sentence, pardon, or remission of sentence; requiring the
8 Department to make at least two attempts in writing by certified mail to notify a
9 victim or victim’s representative of certain decisions of the Maryland Parole
10 Commission; and generally relating to parole, commutation of sentence, pardon, and
11 remission of sentence.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Correctional Services
14 Section 7–801(b) and (h) and 7–805(a) and (e)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Correctional Services**

20 7–801.

21 (b) (1) At least 90 days before an incarcerated individual’s parole release
22 hearing, the Department shall notify the victim or the victim’s representative in writing
23 **BY CERTIFIED MAIL**, directed to the most current address on file, that the parole release
24 hearing has been scheduled if:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (i) the victim or the victim's representative filed a notification
2 request form under § 11–104 of the Criminal Procedure Article; or

3 (ii) the victim makes a written request to the Department for
4 notification and maintains a current address on file with the Department.

5 (2) The victim may designate in writing to the Department the name and
6 address of a representative who is a resident of the State to receive notice for the victim.

7 (h) The Department shall **MAKE AT LEAST TWO ATTEMPTS IN WRITING BY**
8 **CERTIFIED MAIL TO** notify promptly the victim or the victim's representative of the
9 decision of the Commission regarding parole for the incarcerated individual.

10 7–805.

11 (a) If the victim made a written request to the Department for notification and
12 maintains a current address on file with the Department or the victim or the victim's
13 representative filed a notification request form under § 11–104 of the Criminal Procedure
14 Article, the Department shall notify the victim or the victim's representative in writing **BY**
15 **CERTIFIED MAIL** that an incarcerated individual sentenced to the Division of Correction
16 is being considered for a:

17 (1) commutation of sentence;

18 (2) pardon; or

19 (3) remission of sentence.

20 (e) The Department shall **MAKE AT LEAST TWO ATTEMPTS IN WRITING BY**
21 **CERTIFIED MAIL TO** notify promptly the victim or the victim's designated representative
22 of the Commission's decision.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2025.