

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 197

(Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - Public Safety and Correctional Services)

Judicial Proceedings

Maryland Correctional Training Commission - Membership

This departmental bill expands the membership of the Correctional Training Commission (CTC) to include the Director of the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for the additional commission member can be handled with existing resources. Otherwise, State finances are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: DPSCS has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: CTC within DPSCS consists of the following 16 members:

- the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services;
- the Secretary of Juvenile Services;
- a representative of DPSCS, designated by the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services;

- a representative of the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), designated by the Secretary of Juvenile Services;
- a Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services;
- the president of the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association;
- the president of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association;
- the president of the Maryland Criminal Justice Association;
- the Maryland Attorney General;
- the president of a university or college in the State with a correctional education curriculum, appointed by the Maryland Higher Education Commission;
- one correctional officer of the State recommended by the exclusive representative for the officers, as specified and appointed by the Governor; and
- five correctional officers or officials appointed by the Governor.

The Governor must appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, five correctional officers or officials from local correctional facilities to be members of the commission. The five members appointed by the Governor must be from local correctional facilities and represent each geographic area of the State ("the Capital region," "the Central region," the Eastern Shore region," "the Southern region," and "the Western region," as defined). The term of each of these appointed members is three years and staggered. At the end of a term, such an appointed member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the remainder of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

Except for the five members appointed by the Governor, a member of the commission may serve personally at a commission meeting or designate a representative from the member's unit or association who may act at any meeting to the same effect as if the member were personally present.

Commission members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

CTC has several enumerated powers and duties, including:

- to prescribe standards for the approval and continuation of approval of schools that conduct correctional, parole, or probation entrance level and in-service training courses;
- to approve and issue certificates of approval to correctional training schools;
- to inspect correctional training schools;
- to revoke, for cause, any approval or certificate of approval issued to a correctional training school;

- to prescribe the curriculum, courses of study, attendance and eligibility requirements, equipment and facilities, standards of operation, and minimum qualifications for instructors;
- to certify and issue appropriate certificates to qualified instructors for approved correctional training schools;
- to certify and issue appropriate certificates to correctional officers who satisfactorily complete training programs;
- to conduct and operate approved correctional training schools;
- to adopt regulations necessary to carry CTC duties, as specified;
- to make a continuous study of correctional training methods and procedures for all correctional training schools;
- to consult with and accept the cooperation of any recognized federal, State, or municipal correctional agency or educational institution;
- to consult and cooperate with universities, colleges, and institutions to develop all general and specialized courses of study for correctional officers;
- to consult and cooperate with other units of the State concerned with correctional training;
- to develop and implement specific program design and appropriate course curriculum and training for DJS employees, subject to certain conditions; and
- to perform any other act that is necessary or appropriate to carry out CTC requirements.

“Capital region” means Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties. “Central region” means Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties. “Eastern Shore region” means Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. “Southern region” means Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties. “Western region” means Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties.

Background: Since the establishment of CTC, the duties and powers of the commission have grown to encompass positions beyond the traditional correctional officer and now also include parole and probation agents. DPP supervises more than 42,000 individuals on mandatory release, parole, and/or probation. As part of its duties, DPP is required to use practicable and suitable methods that are consistent with evidence-based programs and practices and innovative programs and practices to aid and encourage a probationer or parolee to improve conduct, to reduce the risk of recidivism, and to pay restitution. According to DPSCS, the bill seeks to include representation for DPP on CTC to be able to use the resources of CTC to ensure that DPP is able to adhere to its statutory requirements.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 123 (Chair, Judiciary Committee)(By Request - Departmental - Public Safety and Correctional Services) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 9, 2025
km/lgc

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Correctional Training Commission - Alterations - Director of the Division of Parole and Probation

BILL NUMBER: SB0197

PREPARED BY: Catherine Kahl , Deputy Director, Government and Legislative Affairs

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

X WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

 WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS