

Chapter 518

(Senate Bill 61)

AN ACT concerning

Division of Correction – ~~Release Preparation~~ Volunteer Services Program

FOR the purpose of establishing the ~~Release Preparation~~ Volunteer Services Program in the Division of Correction for the purpose of providing access to volunteers, including formerly incarcerated individuals and organizations led by formerly incarcerated individuals, to State correctional facilities to assist incarcerated individuals with release preparation; ~~altering the purposes of the Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement Fund to include providing funds to cover the costs of supporting the Release Preparation Program;~~ and generally relating to the ~~Release Preparation~~ Volunteer Services Program.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 36-206
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

BY adding to
Article – Correctional Services
Section 9-619
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2025 Replacement Volume)

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

~~Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis~~

~~36-206.~~

- ~~(a) In this section, “Fund” means the Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement Fund.~~
- ~~(b) There is a Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement Fund.~~
- ~~(c) The purpose of the Fund is to provide funds to cover the costs of:

 - ~~(1) the operation of the Administration;~~
 - ~~(2) administering and enforcing this title; [and]~~~~

~~(3) supporting the Social Equity Partnership Grant Program established under § 1-323 of this article; AND~~

~~(4) SUPPORTING THE RELEASE PREPARATION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9-619 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.~~

~~(d) The Administration shall administer the Fund.~~

~~(e) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.~~

~~(2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund.~~

~~(f) The Fund consists of:~~

~~(1) fees distributed to the Fund under § 36-205 of this subtitle;~~

~~(2) revenue distributed to the Fund under § 2-1302.2 of the Tax General Article;~~

~~(3) interest earnings of the Fund; and~~

~~(4) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund, in accordance with any conditions adopted by the Commission for the acceptance of donations or gifts to the Fund.~~

~~(g) The Fund may be used for:~~

~~(1) carrying out this title [and];~~

~~(2) supporting the Social Equity Partnership Grant Program established under § 1-323 of this article; AND~~

~~(3) SUPPORTING THE RELEASE PREPARATION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9-619 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.~~

~~(h) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.~~

~~(2) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.~~

~~(i) The Fund is subject to audit by the Office of Legislative Audits as provided for in § 2-1220 of the State Government Article.~~

~~(j) (1) On or before March 15 each year, the Administration shall publish on its website a detailed report on revenue distributed to and expenditures from the Fund.~~

~~(2) The report shall also be submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.~~

Article – Correctional Services

9-619.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROGRAM” MEANS THE ~~RELEASE PREPARATION~~ VOLUNTEER SERVICES PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS A ~~RELEASE PREPARATION~~ VOLUNTEER SERVICES PROGRAM IN THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION.

(C) ~~(1)~~ THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION SHALL ESTABLISH A PROTOCOL FOR REGISTERING VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS LED BY FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS, IN THE PROGRAM TO HAVE ACCESS TO STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS WITH RELEASE PREPARATION.

~~**(2) THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION SHALL SUBMIT THE PROTOCOL ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR APPROVAL.**~~

(D) THE PROTOCOL ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION SHALL REQUIRE:

~~**(1) THE REGISTRATION OF FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS VOLUNTEERS IN THE PROGRAM TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC MAINTAINED BY THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION TO MAINTAIN A RECORD OF VOLUNTEERS REGISTERED IN THE PROGRAM; AND**~~

~~**(2) A FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL IN THE PROGRAM TO DECIDE WHETHER:**~~

~~**(i) THE INDIVIDUAL’S NAME IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC; OR**~~

~~**(ii) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, ANOTHER VOLUNTEER OR AN ORGANIZATION WILL PROVIDE THAT VOLUNTEER’S NAME OR THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION ON BEHALF OF THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED**~~

~~INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE REGISTRATION OF VOLUNTEERS IN THE PROGRAM TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC; AND~~

(3) A VOLUNTEER IN THE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE TO THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION A WRITTEN SCHEDULE DESCRIBING WHEN THE ~~INDIVIDUAL~~ VOLUNTEER INTENDS TO ACCESS A STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

(E) A VOLUNTEER IN THE PROGRAM:

(1) HAS THE RIGHT TO ELECT WHETHER THE VOLUNTEER'S NAME IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC; AND

(2) MUST CONSENT IN WRITING IF THE VOLUNTEER ELECTS THE DISCLOSURE OF THE VOLUNTEER'S NAME TO THE PUBLIC.

(F) THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION MAY NOT DENY A SCHEDULE PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(D)(2)~~ (D)(3) OF THIS SECTION UNLESS THE SCHEDULE INTERFERES WITH THE NORMAL FUNCTION OF THE STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.

~~**(F) (1) IF A FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT WANT THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL'S NAME MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, ANOTHER VOLUNTEER OR AN ORGANIZATION MAY PROVIDE THAT VOLUNTEER'S NAME OR THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION ON BEHALF OF THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL.**~~

~~**(2) THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION SHALL MAINTAIN A RECORD OF THE NAMES OF FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ANOTHER VOLUNTEER OR AN ORGANIZATION PROVIDE THEIR NAME FOR PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (D)(2)(II) OF THIS SECTION.**~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2026.