

# HOUSE BILL 467

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CF SB 822

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By: **Delegates Embry, Boyce, Fair, Kaufman, Moreno, Pasteur, Phillips, Ruth, Simmons, Stinnett, ~~and Wolek~~ Wolek, Conaway, and Woods**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Correctional Services – Maryland Parole Commission – Improvements in**  
3 **Transparency and Equity**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the annual report of the Maryland Parole Commission to  
5 include certain information; altering a certain provision of law to require the  
6 Commission to provide certain documents to a certain incarcerated individual and  
7 the incarcerated individual's representative at a certain time, rather than allow the  
8 incarcerated individual to examine the documents on request; requiring the  
9 Commission to document, state on the record, provide to an incarcerated individual,  
10 and make available to the public certain information; altering the time periods  
11 within which the Commission is required to issue certain reports; providing that the  
12 Commission does not have the authority to permanently deny parole; providing that  
13 a certain incarcerated individual is entitled to a subsequent parole hearing at a  
14 certain time; requiring the Commission to record each hearing at a certain time;  
15 requiring each hearing recording to be made available to the public subject to certain  
16 disclosure requirements, to be redacted in a certain manner, to be retained for a  
17 certain amount of time, and to contain certain materials; and generally relating to  
18 the Maryland Parole Commission.

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
20 Article – Correctional Services  
21 Section 7–208, 7–303, 7–304(b), 7–305(7), 7–306, and 7–307  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2025 Replacement Volume)

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### 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 BY adding to  
 2 Article – Correctional Services  
 3 Section 7–307.1 and 7–307.2  
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 5 (2025 Replacement Volume)

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

8 **Article – Correctional Services**

9 7–208.

10 (A) The Commission shall:

- 11 (1) maintain a record of its actions;
- 12 (2) make an annual report to the Governor of its work; and
- 13 (3) make appropriate recommendations for the improvement of its  
 14 functions.

15 (B) **THE ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS**  
 16 **SECTION SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, DISAGGREGATED BY**  
 17 **RACE OF THE RELEVANT INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS:**

18 (1) **THE NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH THE COMMISSION GRANTED**  
 19 **PAROLE;**

20 (2) **THE NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH THE COMMISSION DENIED**  
 21 **PAROLE AND THE REASON FOR EACH DENIAL;**

22 (3) **THE NUMBER OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE**  
 23 **GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVE RELEASE;**

24 (4) **THE NUMBER OF HEARINGS HELD AND THE PURPOSE OF EACH**  
 25 **HEARING; ~~AND~~**

26 (5) **THE NUMBER OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE**  
 27 **PAROLE-ELIGIBLE BUT HAVE NOT BEEN GRANTED PAROLE;**

28 (6) **THE NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS COMPLETED BY THE**  
 29 **COMMISSION; AND**

1                   **(7) THE NUMBER OF PAROLE REVOCATION HEARINGS HELD AND THE**  
2 **OUTCOME OF EACH PAROLE REVOCATION HEARING.**

3 7-303.

4           (a) Before any hearing on parole release, the Commission shall give the  
5 incarcerated individual **AND THE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL'S REPRESENTATIVE:**

6                   **(1)** adequate and timely written notice of:

7                   **[(1)] (I)** the date, time, and place of the hearing; and

8                   **[(2)] (II)** the factors that the Commission or hearing examiner will  
9 consider in determining whether the incarcerated individual is suitable for parole[.

10           (b) (1) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the  
11 notice also shall indicate that, before the hearing, the incarcerated individual or the  
12 incarcerated individual's representative may, on request, examine any document]; **AND**

13                   **(2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION,**  
14 **COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS** that the Commission or hearing examiner will use in  
15 determining whether the incarcerated individual is suitable for parole, **INCLUDING:**

16                   **(I) THE CASE PLAN;**

17                   **(II) THE PRE-PAROLE SUMMARY;**

18                   **(III) THE FULL REPORT OF ANY RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED**  
19 **IN PREPARATION FOR THE HEARING ON PAROLE RELEASE; AND**

20                   **(IV) THE CASE MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION.**

21                   **[(ii)] (B) (1)** A document, or a portion of it, is not available for  
22 examination[,] if the Commission determines that:

23                   **[1.] (I)** the document or portion contains a diagnostic  
24 opinion **AND THE DIAGNOSING CLINICIAN HAS DETERMINED IN WRITING THAT**  
25 **DISCLOSURE OF THE DIAGNOSTIC OPINION IS CONTRAINDICATED;**

26                   **[2.] (II)** the incarcerated individual's knowledge of the  
27 document or portion would disrupt seriously a program of rehabilitation;

28                   **[3.] (III)** the document or portion contains sources of  
29 information obtained on a promise of confidentiality; or

1 [4.] (IV) the document or portion is otherwise privileged.

2 [(iii)] (2) If the Commission determines that a document or a  
3 portion of it is not available for examination, the Commission shall notify the incarcerated  
4 individual that:

5 [1.] (I) the document or portion is not available for  
6 examination; and

7 [2.] (II) on request and if appropriate, the Commission will  
8 provide the incarcerated individual or the incarcerated individual's representative with the  
9 substance of any information contained in the document or portion.

10 [(2)] (C) The Commission shall delete the address and phone number of  
11 the victim or the victim's designated representative from a document before the  
12 incarcerated individual or the incarcerated individual's representative examines the  
13 document.

14 7-304.

15 (b) The vote of each commissioner when acting collectively or in a panel, to  
16 approve or deny parole, ~~EACH COMMISSIONER'S~~ THE PANEL'S REASONING AND  
17 JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE COMMISSIONER'S VOTE ~~PANEL'S DECISION~~, and a vote to  
18 close or restrict access to a parole hearing under subsection (d) of this section, shall be made  
19 available to the public.

20 7-305.

21 Each hearing examiner and commissioner determining whether an incarcerated  
22 individual is suitable for parole, and the Commission before entering into a predetermined  
23 parole release agreement, shall consider:

24 (7) **ANY VICTIM'S ORIGINAL OR SUBSEQUENTLY FILED VICTIM**  
25 **IMPACT STATEMENT**, an updated victim impact statement, or **ANY** recommendation  
26 prepared under § 7-801 of this title;

27 7-306.

28 (a) (1) The chairperson of the Commission shall assign hearing examiners, or  
29 commissioners acting as hearing examiners, as required to hear cases for parole.

30 (2) Each proceeding before a hearing examiner shall be conducted in  
31 accordance with this section.

32 (b) The Commission shall keep a record of each hearing conducted by a hearing  
33 examiner.

1 (c) A hearing examiner shall determine if an incarcerated individual is suitable  
2 for parole in accordance with the factors and other information specified in § 7–305 of this  
3 subtitle.

4 (d) (1) At the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing examiner shall inform the  
5 incarcerated individual of the hearing examiner’s recommendation for parole or denial of  
6 parole.

7 (2) Within ~~[21]~~ **14** days after the hearing, the hearing examiner shall give  
8 to the Commission, the Commissioner of Correction, and the incarcerated individual a  
9 written report of the hearing examiner’s findings and recommendation for parole or denial  
10 of parole, **INCLUDING THE REASONING AND JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE**  
11 **RECOMMENDATION.**

12 (3) The Commissioner of Correction or the incarcerated individual may file  
13 with the Commission written exceptions to the report of a hearing examiner no later than  
14 ~~5~~ **30** days after the report is received.

15 (e) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, one commissioner assigned  
16 by the chairperson of the Commission shall review summarily the recommendation of the  
17 hearing examiner.

18 (2) (i) The Commission, on its own initiative or on the filing of an  
19 exception, may schedule a hearing on the record by the entire Commission or by a panel of  
20 at least two commissioners assigned by the chairperson of the Commission.

21 (ii) The Commission or panel shall render a written decision on the  
22 appeal.

23 (iii) The decision of the Commission or panel is final.

24 (3) If an exception is not filed and the Commission does not act on its own  
25 initiative within the ~~5-day~~ **30-DAY** appeal period established under subsection (d)(3) of  
26 this section, the recommendation of the hearing examiner is approved.

27 (4) (I) **THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMPTLY GIVE THE**  
28 **INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL WRITTEN NOTICE OF ITS FINAL DECISION UNDER THIS**  
29 **SECTION.**

30 (II) **IF THE COMMISSION’S FINAL DECISION UNDER THIS**  
31 **SECTION IS TO DENY PAROLE, THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF**  
32 **THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL INCLUDE THE DATE OF THE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL’S**  
33 **NEXT PAROLE HEARING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–307.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

34 7–307.

1 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the chairperson of  
2 the Commission shall assign at least two commissioners to hear cases for parole release as  
3 a panel.

4 (2) Each proceeding before a Commission panel shall be conducted in  
5 accordance with this section.

6 (b) (1) (i) A Commission panel that consists of two commissioners shall  
7 determine, by unanimous vote, whether the incarcerated individual is suitable for parole  
8 in accordance with the factors and other information specified in § 7–305 of this subtitle.

9 (ii) If the two–commissioner panel is unable to reach a unanimous  
10 decision, the chairperson of the Commission shall convene a three–commissioner panel as  
11 soon as practicable to rehear the case.

12 (2) A Commission panel that consists of three commissioners shall  
13 determine, by majority vote, whether the incarcerated individual is suitable for parole in  
14 accordance with the factors and other information specified in § 7–305 of this subtitle.

15 (c) For an incarcerated individual who has been sentenced to life imprisonment  
16 after being convicted of a crime committed on or after October 1, 2021, at least six  
17 affirmative votes are required to approve the incarcerated individual for parole, based on  
18 consideration of the factors specified in § 7–305 of this subtitle.

19 (d) (1) The Commission panel shall inform the incarcerated individual and the  
20 appropriate correctional authority of the Commission’s FINAL decision as soon as possible,  
21 BUT NOT LATER THAN 12 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE PAROLE HEARING,  
22 INCLUDING ANY SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION GATHERING OR REVIEW.

23 (2) If parole is denied, the Commission shall, **WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER THE**  
24 **HEARING,** give the incarcerated individual:

25 (I) a written report of its findings [within 30 days after the hearing],  
26 **INCLUDING THE REASONING AND JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE DECISION; AND**

27 (II) **WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE DATE OF THE INCARCERATED**  
28 **INDIVIDUAL’S NEXT PAROLE HEARING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–307.1 OF THIS**  
29 **SUBTITLE.**

30 **7–307.1.**

31 (A) **THE COMMISSION DOES NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO PERMANENTLY**  
32 **DENY PAROLE.**

1 (B) AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL IS ENTITLED TO A SUBSEQUENT  
2 PAROLE HEARING:

3 (1) FOR AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL SENTENCED TO A PERIOD OF  
4 INCARCERATION OF 10 YEARS OR LESS, NOT LATER THAN 2 YEARS AFTER EACH  
5 PAROLE HEARING THAT RESULTS IN A DENIAL OF PAROLE;

6 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ITEM (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, FOR AN  
7 INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL SENTENCED TO A PERIOD OF INCARCERATION  
8 EXCEEDING 10 YEARS, NOT LATER THAN 3 YEARS AFTER EACH PAROLE HEARING  
9 THAT RESULTS IN A DENIAL OF PAROLE; AND

10 (3) FOR AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL SENTENCED TO A PERIOD OF  
11 INCARCERATION EXCEEDING 20 YEARS FOR A CRIME AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL, NOT  
12 LATER THAN 3 YEARS AFTER THE FIRST PAROLE HEARING THAT RESULTS IN A  
13 DENIAL OF PAROLE AND NOT LATER THAN 5 YEARS THEREAFTER.

14 7-307.2.

15 (A) THE COMMISSION SHALL RECORD EACH HEARING.

16 (B) EACH HEARING RECORDING SHALL BE:

17 (1) REDACTED OF ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION OF  
18 THE VICTIM; ~~AND~~

19 (2) MADE READILY AVAILABLE AT NO COST TO THE INCARCERATED  
20 INDIVIDUAL; AND

21 (3) SUBJECT TO THE DISCLOSURE PROVISIONS OF § 3-602 OF THIS  
22 ARTICLE.

23 (C) EACH HEARING RECORDING SHALL BE RETAINED ELECTRONICALLY  
24 UNTIL 3 YEARS AFTER THE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL IS RELEASED FROM  
25 INCARCERATION, ALL POSTINCARCERATION SUPERVISION IS COMPLETED, AND ALL  
26 APPEALS ARE EXHAUSTED, WHICHEVER HAPPENS LAST.

27 (D) AT THE CONCLUSION OF EACH HEARING, THE PRESIDING  
28 COMMISSIONER SHALL STATE THE FINDINGS, REASONING, AND JUSTIFICATIONS OF  
29 THE COMMISSION ON THE RECORD.

30 (E) ANY STATEMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIALS  
31 CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE RECORDING

1 OF THE HEARING, UNLESS CONFIDENTIALITY IS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE  
2 INSTITUTIONAL SECURITY OR THE SECURITY OF PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE  
3 ENDANGERED BY DISCLOSURE.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.