

HOUSE BILL 667

E5
HB 1198/25 – JUD

EMERGENCY BILL

6lr3319

By: **Delegate Ruff**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Correctional Services – Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services –**
3 **Female Incarcerated Individuals**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the required specifications for a certain prerelease facility for
5 female incarcerated individuals; requiring the Department of General Services to
6 direct certain procurement processes for the construction of a certain prerelease
7 facility for female incarcerated individuals; requiring the Commissioner of
8 Correction to make certain services available to certain female incarcerated
9 individuals; requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to
10 implement certain comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services by a certain
11 date; requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to report
12 certain information to certain legislative committees; requiring the Office of the
13 Correctional Ombudsman to review and verify the Department of Public Safety and
14 Correctional Services' compliance with this Act and report certain information to
15 certain legislative committees; and generally relating to comprehensive
16 rehabilitative prerelease services for female incarcerated individuals.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Correctional Services
19 Section 3–301 and 3–303
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2025 Replacement Volume)

22 BY adding to
23 Article – Correctional Services
24 Section 3–301.1
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2025 Replacement Volume)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Correctional Services

1
2 3–301.

3 (a) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, the Commissioner shall operate a
4 comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease unit for women that:

5 (1) is a separate structure in which the services specified in § 3–303(b) of
6 this subtitle are provided;

7 (2) has security features for female incarcerated individuals who:

8 (i) present the least risk of violence;

9 (ii) present the least risk of escape; and

10 (iii) have a record of satisfactory institutional behavior; and

11 (3) matches security level on a validated gender–responsive risk measure.

12 (b) [(1) In determining where to place a prerelease unit for women, the
13 Commissioner shall determine into which area, defined by zip codes, the largest percentage
14 of incarcerated individuals will likely be released.

15 (2)] A prerelease unit for women shall be:

16 (1) located in [or adjacent to the zip codes identified in paragraph (1) of this
17 subsection] **BALTIMORE CITY ON A SITE THAT IS:**

18 (I) **NOT LESS THAN 3 ACRES IN LAND AREA; AND**

19 (II) **NOT LOCATED WITHIN A 1–MILE RADIUS OF ANY EXISTING**
20 **CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; AND**

21 (2) **ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE THE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSING,**
22 **PROGRAMMING, AND SERVICES REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE FOR NOT FEWER**
23 **THAN 1.25 TIMES THE NUMBER OF WOMEN AT THE MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL**
24 **INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN WHO WERE ELIGIBLE FOR PRERELEASE STATUS IN**
25 **CALENDAR YEAR 2024, AS REPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS OCTOBER 2024**
26 **REPORT TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE**
27 **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

28 (c) An incarcerated individual assigned to a prerelease unit for women may have
29 access to the community for any purpose described in § 3–305(a) of this subtitle.

1 (d) The Department shall:

2 (1) identify a location, acquire property, and design a site plan for the
3 prerelease unit for women on or before June 1, 2021;

4 (2) begin construction or renovation of the facility on or before September
5 1, 2021; and

6 (3) begin operating and providing services in the facility on or before June
7 1, 2023.

8 **3-301.1.**

9 (A) ON REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL
10 SERVICES SHALL:

11 (1) REVIEW AND EVALUATE ANY PROPOSALS CURRENTLY IN
12 POSSESSION OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE FACILITY
13 REQUIREMENTS IN § 3-301 OF THIS SUBTITLE BY JUNE 1, 2026;

14 (2) IF NO CURRENT PROPOSAL EVALUATED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS
15 SUBSECTION SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER § 3-301 OF THIS SUBTITLE, IN
16 ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXPEDITED PROCUREMENT PROCESS UNDER § 13-108 OF
17 THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, ISSUE A REQUEST FOR
18 PROPOSALS FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PRERELEASE
19 UNIT FOR WOMEN, AS REQUIRED UNDER § 3-301 OF THIS SUBTITLE, BY AUGUST 1,
20 2026;

21 (3) REVIEW AND EVALUATE PROPOSALS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE
22 DEPARTMENT; AND

23 (4) AWARD A CONTRACT TO A PROVIDER AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

24 (B) A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ISSUED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS
25 SECTION SHALL ACCURATELY AND COMPLETELY DESCRIBE, TO THE EXTENT
26 PRACTICABLE, THE LOCATION, USES, AND TIMELINE FOR DELIVERABLES TOWARD
27 COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT.

28 (C) THE CONTRACT AWARDED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(4) OF THIS SECTION
29 TO BUILD A PRERELEASE UNIT FOR FEMALE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS SHALL:

30 (1) COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS IN § 3-301 OF THIS SUBTITLE;
31 AND

32 (2) INCLUDE:

- 1 **(I) HOUSING UNITS WITH DOUBLE AND SINGLE OCCUPANCY;**
2 **(II) HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE ROOMS, WHEELCHAIR RAMPS,**
3 **AND DESIGNATED HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES;**
4 **(III) BATHROOMS THAT MAXIMIZE PRIVACY, DIGNITY, AND**
5 **SECURITY OF RESIDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS;**
6 **(IV) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES;**
7 **(V) INDOOR AND OUTDOOR MEETING, LOUNGE, AND VISITING**
8 **SPACES;**
9 **(VI) A CLASSROOM;**
10 **(VII) A CAREER CENTER;**
11 **(VIII) A NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL SUITE;**
12 **(IX) ON-SITE RECREATIONAL, CREATIVE, AND ATHLETIC**
13 **FACILITIES; AND**
14 **(X) ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.**

15 3-303.

16 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (2) **“ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL” MEANS AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL**
18 **WITH PRERELEASE STATUS AT THE MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR**
19 **WOMEN.**

20 (3) “Evidence-based programs and practices” has the meaning stated in §
21 6-119 of this article.

22 (4) **“GENDER-RESPONSIVE SERVICES” MEANS PROGRAMS THAT**
23 **RECOGNIZE THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF INCARCERATED WOMEN IN PRERELEASE**
24 **STATUS REGARDING THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, SOCIALIZATION,**
25 **CULTURE, EXPOSURE TO TRAUMA, AND LIFE EXPERIENCES, TO REDUCE**
26 **CRIMINOGENIC RISKS AND SUPPORT SUCCESSFUL REENTRY, RECOVERY, AND**
27 **RECIDIVISM REDUCTION.**

28 [(3)] (5) “Innovative programs and practices” has the meaning stated in §
29 6-119 of this article.

1 (b) (1) The Commissioner shall make evidence-based and gender-responsive
2 services available to female incarcerated individuals [at the prerelease unit for women
3 required under § 3-301 of this subtitle] **WITH PRERELEASE STATUS.**

4 (2) **THE SERVICES REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE**
5 **PROVIDED TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS BEFORE THE FINAL CONSTRUCTION AND**
6 **OCCUPATION OF THE FACILITY REQUIRED UNDER § 3-301 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

7 (c) The comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services shall utilize
8 evidence-based programs and practices and innovative programs and practices to:

9 (1) assist female incarcerated individuals in improving their education,
10 upgrading vocational skills, and obtaining suitable employment through classes to earn
11 industry certification or community college credits, workforce training, and job placement;

12 (2) provide female incarcerated individuals with the opportunity to
13 strengthen family and community relationships through extended family leave, parenting
14 workshops, and family reunification assistance;

15 (3) provide integrative and gender-responsive services, including medical
16 treatment, trauma-informed counseling, mental health treatment, and substance use
17 disorder treatment to address overall health and trauma needs and help female
18 incarcerated individuals achieve stable and productive roles in society; and

19 (4) develop individualized and comprehensive reentry plans involving
20 community provider partnerships for female incarcerated individuals to reduce barriers to
21 obtaining housing, jobs, education, health care, childcare and child welfare, transportation,
22 legal advocacy, case management, and other needs.

23 (D) **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO PROVIDE**
24 **COMPREHENSIVE GENDER-RESPONSIVE SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS**
25 **ON-SITE AT THE MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN ON OR**
26 **BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2026.**

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before July 1, 2026, the
28 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide a preliminary report
29 on the progress the Department has made to comply with Section 1 of this Act, including
30 any specific steps taken and dates on which specific steps were taken to the Senate Judicial
31 Proceedings Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Judiciary
32 Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the
33 State Government Article.

34 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before September 1,
35 2026, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Department of
36 General Services shall provide an update on the progress of design and construction of the

1 prerelease unit for women to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, the Senate
2 Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, and the House
3 Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

4 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

5 (a) On or before December 1, 2026, the Office of the Correctional Ombudsman
6 established under Title 9, Subtitle 40 of the State Government Article shall review and
7 verify the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services' progress and submit a
8 report, including findings and recommendations, to the Senate Judicial Proceedings
9 Committee and the House Judiciary Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State
10 Government Article.

11 (b) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall fully
12 cooperate with the Office of the Correctional Ombudsman and provide all information, data,
13 and facility access requested to complete the review required under this section.

14 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
15 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
16 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to
17 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
18 enacted.