

# SENATE BILL 61

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr1421  
CF HB 108

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By: **Senator Sydnor**

Requested: October 29, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 2, 2026

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

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

11 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~  
12 ~~Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis~~  
13 ~~Section 36-206~~  
14 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
15 ~~(2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

16 BY adding to  
17 Article – Correctional Services  
18 Section 9-619  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (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.



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

3 (1) THE REGISTRATION OF ~~FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS~~  
4 VOLUNTEERS IN THE PROGRAM TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC  
5 MAINTAINED BY THE DIVISION OF CORRECTION; AND

6 (2) A FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL IN THE PROGRAM TO  
7 DECIDE WHETHER:

8 (I) THE INDIVIDUAL'S NAME IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE  
9 PUBLIC; OR

10 (II) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, ANOTHER  
11 VOLUNTEER OR AN ORGANIZATION WILL PROVIDE THAT VOLUNTEER'S NAME OR  
12 THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION ON BEHALF OF THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED  
13 INDIVIDUAL TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC; AND

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

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

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

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

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