

# SENATE BILL 187

E5  
SB 632/25 – JPR & B&T

EMERGENCY BILL  
(PRE-FILED)

6lr1151  
CF 6lr1153

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By: **Senator M. Washington**

Requested: October 10, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation

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## 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)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

**Article – Correctional Services**

3–301.

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

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

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

(i) present the least risk of violence;

(ii) present the least risk of escape; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) The Department shall:

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

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

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

**3–301.1.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1                   (1)   COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS IN § 3–301 OF THIS SUBTITLE;  
2   AND

3                   (2)   INCLUDE:

4                           (I)   HOUSING UNITS WITH DOUBLE AND SINGLE OCCUPANCY;

5                           (II)   HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE ROOMS, WHEELCHAIR RAMPS,  
6   AND DESIGNATED HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES;

7                           (III)   BATHROOMS THAT MAXIMIZE PRIVACY, DIGNITY, AND  
8   SECURITY OF RESIDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS;

9                           (IV)   ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES;

10                           (V)   INDOOR AND OUTDOOR MEETING, LOUNGE, AND VISITING  
11   SPACES;

12                           (VI)   A CLASSROOM;

13                           (VII)   A CAREER CENTER;

14                           (VIII)   A NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL SUITE;

15                           (IX)   ON-SITE RECREATIONAL, CREATIVE, AND ATHLETIC  
16   FACILITIES; AND

17                           (X)   ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

18   3–303.

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

20                   (2)   “ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL” MEANS AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL  
21   WITH PRERELEASE STATUS AT THE MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR  
22   WOMEN.

23                   (3)   “Evidence–based programs and practices” has the meaning stated in §  
24   6–119 of this article.

25                   (4)   “GENDER–RESPONSIVE SERVICES” MEANS PROGRAMS THAT  
26   RECOGNIZE THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF INCARCERATED WOMEN IN PRERELEASE  
27   STATUS REGARDING THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, SOCIALIZATION,  
28   CULTURE, EXPOSURE TO TRAUMA, AND LIFE EXPERIENCES, TO REDUCE

1 **CRIMINOGENIC RISKS AND SUPPORT SUCCESSFUL REENTRY, RECOVERY, AND**  
2 **RECIDIVISM REDUCTION.**

3 **[(3)] (5)** “Innovative programs and practices” has the meaning stated in §  
4 6–119 of this article.

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

8 **(2) THE SERVICES REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE**  
9 **PROVIDED TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS BEFORE THE FINAL CONSTRUCTION AND**  
10 **OCCUPATION OF THE FACILITY REQUIRED UNDER § 3–301 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

11 (c) The comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services shall utilize  
12 evidence–based programs and practices and innovative programs and practices to:

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

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

19 (3) provide integrative and gender–responsive services, including medical  
20 treatment, trauma–informed counseling, mental health treatment, and substance use  
21 disorder treatment to address overall health and trauma needs and help female  
22 incarcerated individuals achieve stable and productive roles in society; and

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

27 **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO PROVIDE**  
28 **COMPREHENSIVE GENDER–RESPONSIVE SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS**  
29 **ON–SITE AT THE MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN ON OR**  
30 **BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2026.**

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before July 1, 2026, the  
32 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide a preliminary report  
33 on the progress the Department has made to comply with Section 1 of this Act, including  
34 any specific steps taken and dates on which specific steps were taken to the Senate Judicial  
35 Proceedings Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Judiciary

Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before September 1, 2026, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Department of General Services shall provide an update on the progress of design and construction of the prerelease unit for women to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

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

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

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