

SENATE BILL 187

E5
SB 632/25 – JPR & B&T

EMERGENCY BILL
(PRE-FILED)

6lr1151
CF HB 935

By: **Senator M. Washington**

Requested: October 10, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22 Article – Correctional Services
23 Section 3–301 ~~and 3–303~~ through 3–305

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 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2025 Replacement Volume)

3 BY adding to
4 Article – Correctional Services
5 Section 3–301 and 3–303
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2025 Replacement Volume)

8 ~~BY adding to~~
9 ~~Article – Correctional Services~~
10 ~~Section 3–301.1~~
11 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
12 ~~(2025 Replacement Volume)~~

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

15 **Article – Correctional Services**

16 **3–301.**

17 **(A) (1) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
18 **INDICATED.**

19 **(2) “ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL” MEANS A WOMAN WHO:**

20 **(I) IS WITHIN 18 MONTHS OF THE WOMAN’S ANTICIPATED**
21 **RELEASE DATE; AND**

22 **(II) HAS PRERELEASE STATUS.**

23 **(3) “REENTRY FACILITY” MEANS A COMMUNITY–BASED FACILITY OR**
24 **ANY OTHER FACILITY OPERATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR ELIGIBLE**
25 **INDIVIDUALS.**

26 ~~3–301.~~ **3–302.**

27 (a) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, the Commissioner shall operate a
28 comprehensive rehabilitative ~~prerelease unit~~ **REENTRY FACILITY** for ~~women~~ **ELIGIBLE**
29 **INDIVIDUALS** that:

30 (1) is a separate structure in which the services specified in § ~~3–303(b)~~
31 **3–304(B)** of this subtitle are provided;

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

1 ~~(i) present the least risk of violence;~~

2 ~~(ii) present the least risk of escape; and~~

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

4 ~~(3) matches security level on a validated gender-responsive risk measure~~

5 IS ARCHITECTURALLY DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED TO FACILITATE THE
6 PROVISION OF SERVICES SPECIFIED IN § 3-304(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

7 **(3) INCLUDES:**

8 **(I) FEATURES THAT:**

9 **1. BALANCE PHYSICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY WITH**
10 **VISUAL PRIVACY AND DIGNITY; AND**

11 **2. ENCOURAGE REHABILITATION BY PROVIDING AS**
12 **CLOSE TO A NONCARCERAL ENVIRONMENT AS PRACTICABLE;**

13 **(II) HOUSING UNITS WITH DOUBLE AND SINGLE OCCUPANCY;**

14 **(III) HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE ROOMS, WHEELCHAIR RAMPS,**
15 **AND DESIGNATED HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES;**

16 **(IV) BATHROOMS THAT MAXIMIZE PRIVACY, DIGNITY, AND**
17 **SECURITY OF RESIDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS;**

18 **(V) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES;**

19 **(VI) INDOOR AND OUTDOOR MEETING, LOUNGE, AND VISITING**
20 **SPACES, INCLUDING FAMILY VISITING SPACES;**

21 **(VII) A CLASSROOM;**

22 **(VIII) A CAREER CENTER;**

23 **(IX) A NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL SUITE;**

24 **(X) ON-SITE RECREATIONAL, CREATIVE, AND ATHLETIC**
25 **FACILITIES; AND**

26 **(XI) ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.**

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

4 (2)] A ~~prerelease unit~~ REENTRY FACILITY for women shall be:

5 (1) located in [or adjacent to the zip codes identified in paragraph (1) of this
6 subsection] ~~BALTIMORE CITY~~ THE LOCAL JURISDICTION WHERE THE LARGEST
7 NUMBER OF FEMALE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS WILL LIKELY BE RELEASED,
8 REASONABLY CLOSE TO THE COMMUNITIES TO WHICH THOSE INDIVIDUALS WILL
9 RETURN; AND ON A SITE THAT IS:

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

11 (II) ~~NOT LOCATED WITHIN A 1 MILE RADIUS OF ANY EXISTING~~
12 ~~CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; AND~~

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

20 (c) An incarcerated individual assigned to a ~~prerelease unit~~ REENTRY FACILITY
21 for women may have access to the community for any purpose described in § ~~3-305(a)~~
22 3-306(A) of this subtitle.

23 (d) The Department shall:

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

26 (2) begin construction or renovation of the facility on or before September
27 1, 2021; and

28 (3) begin operating and providing services in the facility on or before June
29 1, 2023.

30 ~~3-301.1. 3-303.~~

31 (A) ~~ON REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE~~ THE DEPARTMENT OF
32 GENERAL SERVICES SHALL:

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

4 ~~(2) IF NO CURRENT PROPOSAL EVALUATED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS~~
5 ~~SUBSECTION SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER § 3-301 OF THIS SUBTITLE,~~
6 ~~SUBJECT TO ITEM (2) OF THIS SECTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXPEDITED~~
7 ~~PROCUREMENT PROCESS UNDER § 13-108 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND~~
8 ~~PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PLANNING,~~
9 ~~DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PRERELEASE UNIT REENTRY FACILITY FOR~~
10 ~~WOMEN, AS REQUIRED UNDER § 3-301 3-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE, BY AUGUST JUNE~~
11 ~~1, 2026; AND~~

12 ~~(2) PRIOR TO ISSUING THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS UNDER ITEM~~
13 ~~(1) OF THIS SECTION, SUBMIT A TIMELINE OF DELIVERABLES FOR THE PLANNING,~~
14 ~~DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE REENTRY FACILITY FOR WOMEN TO THE~~
15 ~~SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS~~
16 ~~COMMITTEE, AND THE OFFICE OF THE CORRECTIONAL OMBUDSMAN.~~

17 ~~(3) REVIEW AND EVALUATE PROPOSALS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE~~
18 ~~DEPARTMENT; AND~~

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

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

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

26 ~~(1) COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS IN § 3-301 OF THIS SUBTITLE;~~
27 ~~AND~~

28 ~~(2) INCLUDE:~~

29 ~~(I) HOUSING UNITS WITH DOUBLE AND SINGLE OCCUPANCY;~~

30 ~~(II) HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE ROOMS, WHEELCHAIR RAMPS,~~
31 ~~AND DESIGNATED HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES;~~

32 ~~(III) BATHROOMS THAT MAXIMIZE PRIVACY, DIGNITY, AND~~
33 ~~SECURITY OF RESIDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS;~~

- 1 ~~(IV) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES;~~
- 2 ~~(V) INDOOR AND OUTDOOR MEETING, LOUNGE, AND VISITING~~
 3 ~~SPACES;~~
- 4 ~~(VI) A CLASSROOM;~~
- 5 ~~(VII) A CAREER CENTER;~~
- 6 ~~(VIII) A NONEMERGENCY MEDICAL SUITE;~~
- 7 ~~(IX) ON-SITE RECREATIONAL, CREATIVE, AND ATHLETIC~~
 8 ~~FACILITIES; AND~~
- 9 ~~(X) ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.~~

10 [3-302.] 3-304.

11 The Commissioner has the same powers and duties relating to a [prerelease unit]
 12 REENTRY FACILITY for women as the Commissioner has for any other correctional facility
 13 in the Division.

14 ~~3-303.~~ 3-305.

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

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

19 ~~(3)~~ (2) “Evidence-based programs and practices” has the meaning
 20 stated in § 6-119 of this article.

21 ~~(4)~~ (3) “GENDER-RESPONSIVE SERVICES” MEANS
 22 EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES THAT RECOGNIZE ADDRESS THE
 23 SPECIFIC NEEDS OF INCARCERATED WOMEN IN PRERELEASE STATUS ELIGIBLE
 24 INDIVIDUALS REGARDING THEIR THERAPEUTIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND VOCATIONAL
 25 GOALS, LIFE SKILLS, PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, SOCIALIZATION, CULTURE,
 26 EXPOSURE TO TRAUMA, AND LIFE EXPERIENCES, TO REDUCE CRIMINOGENIC RISKS
 27 AND SUPPORT SUCCESSFUL REENTRY, RECOVERY, AND RECIDIVISM REDUCTION.

28 [(3)] ~~(5)~~ (4) “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~~ ELIGIBLE individuals [at the prerelease unit for
3 women 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~~ 3-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

7 (c) The comprehensive rehabilitative ~~prerelease~~ REENTRY 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) (1) **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 (2) **THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONTRACT WITH ANOTHER ENTITY TO**
28 **PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE GENDER-RESPONSIVE SERVICES.**

29 (E) **INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS ASSIGNED TO THE FACILITY REQUIRED**
30 **UNDER § 3-302 OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE TRANSPORTED TO ANOTHER**
31 **FACILITY TO RECEIVE COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATIVE REENTRY SERVICES.**

32 **[3-304.] 3-306.**

1 [(a) By contract or purchase of service agreement, the Division may arrange for a
2 person or governmental unit to provide comprehensive rehabilitative [prerelease]
3 REENTRY services [in a prerelease unit for women].

4 [(b) With the Secretary's approval, the Commissioner may contract with a person
5 or a municipal or county authority to provide food, housing, transportation, and programs
6 to incarcerated individuals in a prerelease unit for women.

7 (c) Under a contract with the federal government, the Commissioner may house
8 federal incarcerated individuals in a prerelease unit for women.]

9 [3-305.] 3-307.

10 (a) Subject to regulations adopted by the Commissioner, the Commissioner may
11 delegate to the facility administrator of a [prerelease unit] REENTRY FACILITY for women
12 the authority to grant incarcerated individuals the privilege of leaving the confines of the
13 [unit] FACILITY for the purpose of:

14 (1) engaging in or seeking employment;

15 (2) participating in educational programs or vocational training;

16 (3) participating in community or civic activities;

17 (4) participating in volunteer work;

18 (5) participating in athletic competition; or

19 (6) making personal or family visits.

20 (b) When outside the confines of a [prerelease unit] REENTRY FACILITY for
21 women, an incarcerated individual shall carry, at all times, a copy of the form signed by the
22 facility administrator containing the conditions governing the grant of leave.

23 (c) (1) An incarcerated individual who is on leave is deemed to be in the
24 custody of the Commissioner to the same extent and subject to the same supervision and
25 control as an incarcerated individual who is actually in confinement.

26 (2) An incarcerated individual who escapes while on leave under this
27 section is subject to the penalties in § 9-404 of the Criminal Law Article.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before May 1, 2026, the
29 Maryland Department of Labor and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional
30 Services shall jointly submit a report to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, the
31 Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, and the House

1 Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article,
 2 on the status of reentry services in the State, including:

3 (1) the Maryland Reentry Initiative;

4 (2) workforce development programs and adult learning programs;

5 (3) reentry navigators;

6 (4) American Job Center services and programs;

7 (5) reentry and social work services; and

8 (6) reentry staffing and data collection for:

9 (i) case management and social work;

10 (ii) substance use peer recovery;

11 (iii) education; and

12 (iv) medical and mental health contractors.

13 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before ~~July~~ June 1,
 14 2026, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide a
 15 preliminary report on the progress the Department has made to comply with Section 1 of
 16 this Act, including any specific steps taken and dates on which specific steps were taken to
 17 the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,
 18 the House Judiciary Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance
 19 with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

20 SECTION ~~3~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before ~~September~~
 21 July 1, 2026, ~~the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the~~
 22 Department of General Services shall provide an update on the progress of design and
 23 construction of the ~~prerelease unit~~ reentry facility for women to the Senate Judicial
 24 Proceedings Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Judiciary
 25 Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the
 26 State Government Article.

27 SECTION ~~4~~ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

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

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

4 SECTION ~~5~~ 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
5 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
6 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
7 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
8 enacted.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.