

SENATE BILL 689

E5, E4

6lr3365
CF HB 1347

By: ~~Senator McKay~~ **Senators McKay, Waldstreicher, West, and Sydnor**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **~~Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and Requirements~~**
3 **~~(Bri's Law) on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded~~**
4 **~~Reentry Services - Requirement Alterations and Extension of Report Deadline~~**
5 **~~(Bri's Law)~~**

6 FOR the purpose of ~~establishing the Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and~~
7 ~~Requirements; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Postrelease~~
8 ~~Services and Requirements~~ altering the requirements of the Task Force on the
9 Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services;
10 extending the deadline for the reporting requirement for the Task Force; and
11 generally relating to the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning
12 Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Chapter 936 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024
15 Section 1(a)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Chapter 936 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024
18 Section 1(h)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Chapter 936 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024, as amended by
21 Chapters 112 and 113 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025
22 Section 1(i)

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 repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

2 Chapter 936 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024, as amended by

3 Chapters 112 and 113 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025

4 Section 2

5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

6 Chapter 937 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024

7 Section 1(a)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Chapter 937 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024

10 Section 1(h)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

12 Chapter 937 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024, as amended by Chapters

13 112 and 113 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025

14 Section 1(i)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

16 Chapter 937 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2024, as amended by

17 Chapters 112 and 113 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025

18 Section 2

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

20 ~~That:~~ That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 ~~(a) There is a Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and Requirements.~~

22 ~~(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:~~

23 ~~(1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of~~
24 ~~the Senate;~~

25 ~~(2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of~~
26 ~~the House;~~

27 ~~(3) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the~~
28 ~~Secretary's designee; and~~

29 ~~(4) the President of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, or the~~
30 ~~President's designee.~~

31 ~~(e) The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall be the chair of~~
32 ~~the Task Force.~~

1 ~~(d) The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services shall provide staff~~
2 ~~for the Task Force.~~

3 ~~(e) A member of the Task Force:~~

4 ~~(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but~~

5 ~~(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State~~
6 ~~Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.~~

7 ~~(f) The Task Force shall:~~

8 ~~(1) study:~~

9 ~~(i) each type of release from incarceration in the State; and~~

10 ~~(ii) for each type of release, postrelease programs and requirements~~
11 ~~designed to prevent individuals released from incarceration from recidivating; and~~

12 ~~(2) make recommendations for improving postrelease programming and~~
13 ~~requirements based on its findings.~~

14 ~~(g) On or before July 1, 2027, the Task Force shall report its findings and~~
15 ~~recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State~~
16 ~~Government Article, the General Assembly.~~

17 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June~~
18 ~~1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June~~
19 ~~30, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be~~
20 ~~abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~

21 Chapter 936 of the Acts of 2024

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

23 That:

24 (a) There is a Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and
25 Expanded Reentry Services.

26 (h) The Task Force shall:

27 (1) identify and assess the reentry services that exist in the State;

28 (2) identify gaps in reentry services currently provided in the State;

29 (3) assess the markers of successful reentry;

1 (4) ensure that the recommendations of the Task Force equally consider
2 returning citizens regardless of gender;

3 (5) develop a plan to establish a Division of Returning Citizens within the
4 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to:

5 (i) assess measures of reentry success;

6 (ii) coordinate existing Department and community reentry
7 programs;

8 (iii) remove barriers to reentry;

9 (iv) empower residents to break the cycle of recidivism; and

10 (v) connect incarcerated individuals to pre-release and postrelease
11 assistance; [and]

12 (6) develop a plan to expand the following services for individuals in the
13 State after release from incarceration:

14 (i) housing services, including:

15 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

16 2. assistance in finding a halfway house, family home, or
17 apartment;

18 3. transportation to an individual's home on release;

19 4. referral to first-time home buyer programs; and

20 5. other housing services currently provided by the Re-entry
21 and Transition Services Unit;

22 (ii) employment services, including:

23 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

24 2. employment and entrepreneur training;

25 3. resume assistance;

26 4. assistance obtaining vital documents and State
27 identification;

28 5. connection to employers; and

1 6. other employment services currently provided by the
2 Re-entry and Transition Services Unit;

3 (iii) socialization services, including:

4 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

5 2. financial literacy training;

6 3. connection with a mentor;

7 4. technology acclimation and training; and

8 5. other socialization services currently provided by the
9 Re-entry and Transition Services Unit;

10 (iv) health services, including:

11 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

12 2. connection to:

13 A. a primary care provider;

14 B. mental health services;

15 C. dental care;

16 D. anger management therapy;

17 E. substance abuse counseling; and

18 F. nutrition counseling; and

19 3. other health services currently provided by the Re-entry
20 and Transition Services Unit;

21 (v) legal assistance, including:

22 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

23 2. assistance with obtaining child support;

24 3. assistance with expungement of criminal records; and

1 4. other legal services currently provided by the Re-entry
2 and Transition Services Unit;

3 (vi) education services, including:

4 1. a needs assessment before an individual is released;

5 2. connection to GED programs;

6 3. connection to postsecondary education; and

7 4. other education services currently provided by the
8 Re-entry and Transition Services Unit;

9 (vii) coordination with county reentry programs, including:

10 1. notification of release to a home county; and

11 2. assistance acquiring dental and health records;

12 (viii) other services identified at the time of the trial, during
13 incarceration, or on release of an individual who is being released from incarceration; and

14 (ix) other services currently provided by the Re-entry and Transition
15 Services Unit; AND

16 **(7) STUDY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO PREVENT RECIDIVISM BY**
17 **INDIVIDUALS IN THE STATE AFTER RELEASE FROM INCARCERATION.**

18 **Chapter 936 of the Acts of 2024, as amended by Chapters 112 and 113 of the Acts**
19 **of 2025**

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
21 That:

22 (i) On or before [October] DECEMBER 31, 2026, the Task Force shall, in
23 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, submit a report to the General
24 Assembly of its findings and recommendations.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
26 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and 1 month and, at the end of June
27 30, 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
28 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

29 **Chapter 937 of the Acts of 2024**

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1 F. nutrition counseling; and
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 3 and Transition Services Unit;

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9 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 June 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.