

SENATE BILL 944

E5

6lr2366

By: **Senator Charles**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Correctional Services – Reentry Readiness Program**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Reentry Readiness Program in the Department of
4 Public Safety and Correctional Services; requiring the Department to work jointly
5 with the Motor Vehicle Administration, the Division of Vital Records in the
6 Maryland Department of Health, and the Department of Labor to staff and
7 administer the Program; and generally relating to the Reentry Readiness Program.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Correctional Services
10 Section 9–619
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 **9–619.**

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

19 (2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE REENTRY READINESS PROGRAM.

20 (3) “RELEASING INSTITUTION” MEANS A STATE CORRECTIONAL
21 FACILITY.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(4) "RETURNING CITIZEN" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL CONFINED IN A STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WHO IS EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED WITHIN 90 DAYS.

(B) (1) THERE IS A REENTRY READINESS PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL WORK JOINTLY WITH THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION, THE DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS IN THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO STAFF AND ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

(C) (1) THE PROGRAM STAFF SHALL ASSIST EACH RETURNING CITIZEN IN:

(I) ENROLLING IN VOCATIONAL, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND JOB PLACEMENT PROGRAMS;

(II) OBTAINING A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE RETURNING CITIZEN'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE; AND

(III) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, OBTAINING A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION OR DRIVER'S LICENSE.

(2) AT LEAST 90 DAYS BEFORE THE ANTICIPATED RELEASE FROM CONFINEMENT OF A RETURNING CITIZEN, PROGRAM STAFF WITHIN THE RELEASING INSTITUTION SHALL ASSIST A RETURNING CITIZEN IN COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING ANY NECESSARY APPLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS FOR ENROLLING IN A VOCATIONAL, WORKFORCE TRAINING, OR JOB PLACEMENT PROGRAM.

(3) AT LEAST 60 DAYS BEFORE THE ANTICIPATED RELEASE FROM CONFINEMENT OF A RETURNING CITIZEN, THE COMMISSIONER AND THE PROGRAM STAFF WITHIN A RELEASING INSTITUTION SHALL:

(I) PROVIDE THE RETURNING CITIZEN THE APPROPRIATE FORMS FOR OBTAINING A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION CARD UNDER § 12-301 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE OR A DRIVER'S LICENSE FROM THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION; AND

(II) ASSIST THE RETURNING CITIZEN IN COMPLETING THE FORMS.

1 (D) AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THE ANTICIPATED RELEASE FROM
2 CONFINEMENT OF A RETURNING CITIZEN, PROGRAM STAFF SHALL VERIFY THAT
3 THE RETURNING CITIZEN HAS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE AS REQUIRED UNDER
4 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

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