

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

10 (c) (1) THE PROGRAM STAFF SHALL ASSIST EACH RETURNING CITIZEN
11 IN:

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

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

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

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

30 (II) ASSIST THE RETURNING CITIZEN IN COMPLETING THE
31 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.