

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 823 (Senator Smith)  
 Judicial Proceedings

**Correctional Services - Maryland Parole Commission - Members**

This bill alters the appointing authority and method of appointment for members of the Maryland Parole Commission (MPC). Specifically, the bill *repeals* the requirement that the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, with the approval of the Governor and the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint MPC members and *instead* requires the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint MPC members from among nominees chosen by a panel consisting of specified members. The panel must submit to the Governor the names of at least three qualified nominees for each commissioner vacancy to be filled. The Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) must provide staffing for the panel.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$64,900 in FY 2027; future years reflect annualization, inflation, and ongoing costs. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	64,900	74,600	78,200	81,800	85,400
Net Effect	(\$64,900)	(\$74,600)	(\$78,200)	(\$81,800)	(\$85,400)

*Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** Minimal or none.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** MPC is composed of 10 commissioners who are appointed for six-year terms by the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, with the approval of the Governor and the advice and consent of the Senate. Each commissioner must be appointed without regard to political affiliation, be a resident of the State, and have training and experience in law, sociology, psychology, psychiatry, education, social work, or criminology. Each commissioner must devote full time to the duties of MPC and may not have any other employment that conflicts with such devotion. The Secretary, with the approval of the Governor, also appoints the chairperson of the commission from among its members.

If a commissioner is unable to perform the commissioner's duties because of sickness, incapacity, or disqualification, the Secretary may appoint a hearing examiner to MPC to perform those duties until the commissioner is able to resume those duties or until a new commissioner is appointed and qualifies.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures increase by \$64,900 in fiscal 2027, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2026 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one program coordinator within GOCPP to provide staffing for the panel (*i.e.*, to handle scheduling, research, and general administrative duties). It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses

Position	1.0
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$55,759
Other Operating Expenses	<u>9,141</u>
<b>Total FY 2027 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$64,900</b>

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

The bill is not anticipated to materially affect the finances of the State entities required to serve on the panel.

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## Additional Information

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Governor's Office; Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2026  
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