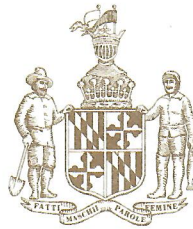


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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**SB91: Voter Registration for Pre-Released Inmates**  
**Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**Hearing: Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 2:00 PM EHEA**

Felons in Maryland prisons lose the right to vote while incarcerated. Former inmates regain their ability to vote upon release. However, most inmates are unaware that they have to re-register in order to vote, and there is no consistent practice to inform felons of their voting rights when they complete their sentences or begin parole. As a result, many miss out on this fundamental right.

SB91 would require prisons to provide voter registration information to inmates upon release. A 2011 study by the Florida Parole Commission found that ex-felons whose right to vote was restored had a three-year recidivism rate of 11%, compared to the overall recidivism rate of 33.1%.

This bill isn't about who has the right to vote. It is about providing information to returning citizens. We hope ex-convicts will rejoin society after serving their time and participate in our democracy. This simple change would facilitate their transition back into our community.

I urge the Committee to favorably report SB91.