



## Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

### Office of the Secretary Office of Government and Legislative Affairs

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**BILL: HOUSE BILL 1553**

**POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

**EXPLANATION:** The bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), in consultation with the Commissioner of Correction issue an identification card to an inmate upon release. The bill also proposes an inmate's license shall remain in full effect during the term of confinement, and if the inmate's license expires during the term of confinement, and is not otherwise suspended, revoked, or cancelled, the Administration shall renew the license prior to the inmate's release.

#### **COMMENTS:**

- The Department's Division of Correction (DOC) operates approximately 17 State correctional facilities, which house offenders sentenced to incarceration for 18 months and longer. The Department also runs the Baltimore City Jail, which houses pretrial detainees and inmates sentenced to incarceration for 18 months and less.
- The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) in consultation with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) provides identification cards to inmates prior to the release.
- The current process is significantly reliant on the DPSCS staff to effectuate. The process provides for DOC facility staff to take the photos necessary for the ID and upload them to the MVA through a link provided by MVA to DPSCS. Facility staff also meet with the inmate to complete the MVA ID information packet. Once the photo is taken and uploaded, the packet is transported by facility staff to the local MVA office for processing. The following week, facility staff return to the local MVA office and retrieve the completed MVA ID's and disseminate the ID's to each inmate.
- This current process is time consuming for DPSCS Case Managers. HB1553 would alter the current MVA ID process by having the subject matter experts – the MVA – assist with obtaining IDs for inmates.

- Additionally, HB 1553 would stipulate that an inmate's license remains effective during the course of their confinement and can be renewed upon release.
- DPSCS is dedicated to providing successful reentry services for the incarcerated population, which includes ensuring access to educational and vocational programming, validating home plans, and assisting with providing proper IDs and licenses.
- Good reentry services should involve multiple state agencies, stakeholders, and service providers. HB 1553 provides an opportunity to refine reentry services in the State of Maryland and improve upon existing linkages.

**CONCLUSION:** The Department respectfully requests this Committee consider this information as it deliberates on House Bill 1553.