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Judicial Proceedings Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SB 516 Correctional Services – Murder – Diminution Credits (Geraldine’s Law)

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Senate Bill 516 will disallow inmates currently serving a sentence for either 1st or 2nd degree murder the ability to use diminution credits towards reducing their term of confinement.

As most of you know, diminution credits are credits earned to reduce an inmate’s term of confinement for good conduct, work tasks, education, and special projects or programs.

There are already other groups of inmates who do not receive such credits:

- Those serving a sentence for first or second degree rape or sexual offense against a victim under age 16.
- An inmate who is serving a repeat sentence for a third-degree sexual offense against a victim under age 16.
- An inmate imprisoned for a lifetime sexual offender supervision violation.

Convicted murders should be added to this list.

Today you will hear testimony from Linda Duncan. Her 67 year old mother was brutally murdered during a burglary in her home. During the burglary, Geraldine Williams was smothered, gagged, and stabbed to death. After 15 years, Ms. William’s killer was caught, but as a result of a plea agreement and diminution credits, he became eligible for parole after 10 years.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 516