

Bill Number: SB922
Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County
Opposed

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT SHELLENBERGER,
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY, IN
OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 922,
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
DIMINUTION CREDITS - EDUCATION

I write in opposition of Senate Bill 922 which expands the application of diminution credits to inmates.

Three years ago the Legislature passed the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA). The components of that act were agreed to after studying how best to improve our criminal justice system for non-violent offenders.

Part of JRA was to greatly increase diminution credits for non-violent offenders, including credits for education. Senate Bill 922 would expand on credits that were already increased for education. We should not start a new piecemeal approach. What is more Senate Bill 922 gives credits for obtaining a degree on top of the credits you can obtain for taking classes. This appears to be double dipping of credits for the same behavior.

I have no opposition to address this as a credit, but it should be within the existing limits. The diminution credits passed in JRA are sufficient and we should not be raising the caps of credits that should apply.

I urge an unfavorable report of Senate Bill 922.