

Bill Number: HB1480
Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County
Opposed

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT SHELLENBERGER,
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
IN OPPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 1480
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
ELDER PAROLE

I write in opposition of House Bill 1480 which would change the parole system for those 60 and over.

Senate Bill 1480 would appear to allow anyone 60 and over to be eligible for parole immediately no matter what their sentence. The Bill would seem to apply to even those sentenced to non-parolable sentences. It seems to abrogate even those sentenced to life without parole for murder. The bill would definitely apply to those inmates serving sentences for crimes of violence. So an inmate who gets convicted of attempted murder at age 58 and given a 20 year sentence, would be eligible for parole after serving just two years. All this is outside the well-established, well thought out rules concerning parole outlined in Correctional Services Article §7-301.

What is more is section (E) creates a presumption that the elder inmate is suitable for parole. Again, going outside the well-established factors and standards created for considering parole.

I urge an unfavorable report of House Bill 1480.