



House Ways and Means Committee

January 16, 2020

House Bill 51

**Election Law - Individuals Released From Correctional Facilities –
Voter Registration**

Support

NCADD-Maryland supports House Bill 51. NCADD-Maryland has long advocated for policies that help people involved with the criminal justice system avoid some of the collateral damage caused by our drug policies. Our work has included fighting for the restoration of people's right to vote.

For too many years, people who served their sentences continued to be punished for a lifetime by having their voting rights permanently taken away. These disenfranchisement laws have a disproportionate impact on people of color. Maryland ended this policy in 2016 and people who are preparing to return to their communities from prisons and jails, should understand what their rights are.

Participation in our democratic system of government is one of Americans' most cherished rights. Re-entry services should include this basic information about voting rights.

We urge your support of House Bill 51.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.

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