

**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**  
**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Hon. Mary Ellen Barbera  
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** Senate Bill 643  
Correctional Services – Division of Parole and Probation –  
Definition of Absconding  
**DATE:** January 29, 2021  
(2/25)  
**POSITION:** Support

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The Maryland Judiciary supports Senate Bill 643. This bill repealed and reenacts, with amendments Section 6-101(b) of the annotated code of Maryland, “absconding” including leaving a treatment facility that an individual was placed in under §8–507 of the Health - General Article for drug or alcohol treatment without the permission of the administrator, as defined in §8–101 of the Health - General Article.

By making clear that absconding includes leaving a treatment facility, this bill provides the court with necessary tools to assist those individuals in particular who are participants in the specialty courts. The Judiciary believes this bill could be expanded even further to include when an individual leaves a treatment facility when placed there via a court mandated order as if participating in a problem-solving court and/or on general probation rather than just those under §8–507 of the Health - General Article.

cc. Hon. Michael Hough  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O’Connor