



## **SB0866**

### **Correctional Services - Payment by State - Inmate Housing Costs**

MCAA Position: **SUPPORT**

TO: Judicial Proceedings Committee

DATE: February 17, 2021

FROM: T.D. Reece, President

MCAA would like to offer its support for SB0866. Increasing the per-diem from \$45.00 a day to \$54.00 a day for holding a state sentenced inmate in a local detention center is a step in the right direction.

Local Jails over the past several decades has consistently had the length of time for holding a sentenced inmate extended to longer and longer sentences. Local Jails have taken it upon themselves to build programs and offer services to the inmates serving the longer local sentences. So much so that the local "Jail" is now referred to as a "Correctional Center" or "Rehabilitation Center".

Local correctional facilities have placed a great deal of effort in moving away from warehousing individuals placed in our custody, to facilities that now offer the opportunity for an education, job training, social, coping and parenting skills and many more programs. We have also created many alternatives to incarceration opportunities with home detention, work release, day reporting and pre-trial services programs.

The individuals sentenced to serve longer sentences in our local correctional centers should be offered the opportunities to seek change in their lives should that be their desire. The goal of every local facility should be to release all individuals back to our communities more confident and capable in their abilities than when they arrived.

State and local corrections are one of the most vital aspects to an orderly and safe community. However, corrections coupled with the new expanded services we provide, are very expensive to the jurisdiction and its taxpayers. Correctional Professionals across the state have worked relentlessly to develop creative solutions for funding these programs and services to avoid additional cost to the community. The use of grants, local resources, volunteers, and the assessment of fees to certain programs help offset the additional costs of providing the best rehabilitative care available.

The increase in the per-diem for holding inmates sentenced to the division of corrections prior to transfer and those returning prior to release for reentry services will assist local correctional facilities in maintaining and improving their programs and opportunities. The Maryland Correctional Administrators Association Support SB0866 and ask the committee to give it a favorable report.