

Disaggregated Data Relating to Public Safety Can Be A Tool For Policy Reform

Position Statement Supporting House Bill 1023

Given before the House Appropriations Committee

The reintegration of people leaving incarceration into their communities can be filled with difficulties. Those who have little to no wrap-around services upon reintegrating face tremendous obstacles getting adequate support. Research shows that recidivism rates are high for those in such situations¹. **The Maryland Center on Economic Policy supports House Bill 1023** because requiring that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, among other agencies, provide disaggregated data on demographics and the crimes collected through the uniform crime reporting program can give insight into the ways our criminal legal and corrections systems can be improved.

Tracking this data, which includes disaggregated data on certain crimes, along with several other metrics regarding law enforcement personnel status and rank from the appropriate agencies, can provide a holistic view into the experiences of returning citizens with the state criminal legal system. Furthermore, this data will provide lawmakers and the public with the information needed to evaluate the state's current policies. This information could inform the development of more equitable policies and set up mechanism by which to examine the effectiveness of these policies through future research.

For these reasons, the Maryland Center on Economic Policy respectfully requests the Appropriations Committee to make a favorable report on House Bill 1023.

Equity Impact Analysis: House Bill 1023

Bill Summary

Requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Department of State Police, the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission, and the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to provide certain information related to public safety and criminal justice in a certain manner to the Department of Legislative Services on or before a certain date each year.

Background

This bill intends to provide disaggregated data on the crimes collected through the uniform crime reporting program and other agency data reporting requirements.

Equity Implications

Our state's reliance on incarceration has put too many Marylanders of every racial and ethnic background behind bars and disrupted communities in every part of our state. At the same time, these harms fall far more heavily on some than on others. For example:

- 7 out of 10 Marylanders incarcerated in state prisons are Black, compared to three out of 10 Marylanders overall.
- Marylanders who identify themselves as American Indian/Alaska native constitute 0.24 percent of our state's total population, but 0.52 percent of Marylanders in state prison.
- The lack of rehabilitation and welfare programs lead to high recidivism rates, particularly youth who, in some cases, see a 76% recidivism rate.

Impact

House Bill 1023 will likely **improve racial and economic equity** in the state by providing the data needed to inform more effective policies.

ⁱ <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/23501>