

CORY V. McCRAY
Legislative District 45
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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 602

District Court - Jobs Court Pilot Program

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 602. This bill passed the Senate with a 45-0 vote in 2020 but did not receive a hearing in the House due to the truncated session.

Judge Nicole Pastore started the District Court Re-Entry Project in 2016 to address the most pervasive obstacle facing individuals with criminal records: the ability to obtain meaningful employment.

Finding long-term employment with a regular income allows these individuals to become stable and productive members of our communities and, not surprisingly, they become much less likely to reoffend.

Participants in the program are offered educational opportunities, job training, and job placement. They can train in a variety of skills from catering to construction. Participants can learn to operate a mix of machinery from computers to forklifts, to drones. They can find careers in auto repair, and the sustainable energy, maritime and culinary industries.

In the first 6 months of the program, over 50 individuals enrolled. As of 2020, over 364 individuals have been enrolled. Individuals come to the program through a variety of court referrals, dismissed cases and even civil proceedings. Some as an alternative to incarceration, a condition of probation, or pursuant to pre-trial supervision.

I am enthusiastic about the future of this important program, and the possibility of duplicating it throughout the state. The purpose of Senate Bill 602 is to do just that.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 602.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray'.

Cory V. McCray
State Senator