



**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 842  
**TITLE:** Criminal Procedure – Petition to Modify or Reduce Sentence (Maryland Second Look Act)  
**COMMITTEE:** Judicial Proceedings  
**HEARING DATE:** March 9, 2022  
**POSITION:** **Information**

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The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to amend SB 842.**

Senate Bill 842 allows a person serving a term of confinement to file a petition to modify or reduce their sentence if they have served the greater of 20 years of the sentence term without application of diminution credits or 25 years of the sentence term with application of diminution credits.

MNADV appreciates that the bill includes provisions requiring notice to a victim and the opportunity for a victim to be heard. However, the bill provides that a victim or victim's representative appear and testify in person at a hearing pursuant to this bill. The requirement of a personal appearance could inflict significant trauma on a victim and, conversely, if a victim does not object to the reduction, it is onerous to require personal appearance. We therefore urge the Committee to permit a victim to submit a victim impact statement or appear by video conferencing and require the Court to consider the statement or grant a victim's request to testify by video conference if it is requested by the victim.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges SB 842 be amended.**