



## Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

### Office of Government and Legislative Affairs

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**BILL: SENATE BILL 785**

**POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

**EXPLANATION:** This bill would require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to submit de-identified and deaggregated data by age, race and sex to the Department of Legislative Services on an annual basis.

#### Comments:

- The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Department) oversees the Division of Correction which operates 13 State correctional facilities, housing offenders sentenced to periods of incarceration for 18 months and longer. The Department also oversees the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services which operates the Baltimore City Pretrial Complex.
- The Department's Office of Data Development (ODD) is charged with collecting, tracking and analyzing data, including trend comparisons for the Department's sentenced, pretrial and community supervision population. This agency-wide data is published on a data dashboard developed by ODD, and can be found on the Department's website at [https://dpscs.maryland.gov/community\\_releases/DPSCS-Annual-Data-Dashboard.shtml](https://dpscs.maryland.gov/community_releases/DPSCS-Annual-Data-Dashboard.shtml)
- Rather than submitting the data electronically to DLS as required under the bill, the Department could publish this information either through a dashboard on its website or through the State open data portal. This would improve accessibility of the data for DLS staff, other State entities, and the public.
- Data published through a dashboard or through the State open data portal may be downloaded for analysis by DLS.

**CONCLUSION:** The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee consider this information and as it deliberates Senate Bill 785.