



Testimony to the HOUSE Judiciary Committee

HB0025- Rehabilitation and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act

Position- Support

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Date: February 1, 2022

The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports **House Bill 25** which would require the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to set goals for the number of inmates in rehabilitation programs and establish certain tracking systems. In addition, it would require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to assist inmates in accessing federal education grants and make education more accessible to inmates.

Having education and rehabilitation programs available to inmates is vital for successful reentry into the community. Education can be a gateway toward upward mobility. However, not being able to access resources because of lack of knowledge about existing programs can be a barrier for many. Having some kind of assistance and guidance on how to access educational and rehabilitation programs and federal educational grants is key to ensuring inmates can continue their education.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports a Maryland prison system which provides education, literacy, and vocational training. In addition, the League supports adequate programs which creates and enhances self-worth and facilitates community reintegration.

For these reasons, we urge a **favorable report on House Bill 25**.