



## Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

### Office of Government & Legislative Affairs

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**BILL:** SENATE BILL 702

**POSITION:** SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

**EXPLANATION:** This bill will prohibit a person from operating or causing the operation of an unmanned aerial vehicle over a State correctional facility and provides a penalty for a violation.

#### COMMENTS:

- The Department operates the Division of Correction (DOC) and the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS).
  - DOC operates 13 State correctional facilities housing offenders sentenced to periods of incarceration for 18 months and longer.
  - DPDS operates the Baltimore City Pretrial Complex which houses pretrial detainees and incarcerated individuals sentenced to incarceration for periods of 18 months and less.
- Unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly referred to as drones, are increasingly being used to conduct unauthorized surveillance and are used to introduce contraband into correctional facilities.
- The introduction of contraband into a correctional facility is extremely dangerous for the incarcerated population and for correctional officers as contraband increases violence.
- This bill is an essential measure in preventing the use of drones for aerial surveillance of a correctional facility and for preventing the introduction of contraband including drugs and weapons.
- The Department would like to offer the following Amendment to include local correctional facilities:
  - On page 2, line 6 after State insert **OR LOCAL**;
  - On page 2, line 7, after Designee, insert **OR BY THE SHERIFF OF A LOCAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY OR THE SHERIFF'S DESIGNEE.**

**CONCLUSION:** The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee to vote **FAVORABLY** on Senate Bill 702.