



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of Government & Legislative Affairs

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BILL NUMBER: SENATE BILL 744

POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

EXPLANATION: This bill would require the Commissioner of Correction to provide an incarcerated individual with a re-entry kit prior to release as well as assistance in providing Medicaid benefits.

Comments:

The Department operates the Division of Correction (DOC), the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS), and the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP).

- 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.
 - DPP supervises parolees, probationers and those on mandatory release from correctional facilities.
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- Successful re-entry is absolutely critical to the Department's mission of public safety. The Programs, Treatment and Re-entry Services Unit provides robust rehabilitative and re-entry services to those returning to the community so they can live productive lives.
 - SB 744 would require the Commissioner of Correction to provide each incarcerated individual with a re-entry kit, upon release, containing:
 - at least a one week of supplies for basic human needs, including clothing and toiletries;
 - an identification card;
 - contact information for entities that provide reentry services, housing assistance, substance use disorder

treatment; mental health services; public transportation information, to include local public transportation schedules and maps; and

- if the inmate is not eligible for Medicaid, information on the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange
- Currently, upon release from the Division of Correction, each incarcerated individual is provided a Release Envelope that he/she must sign for, acknowledging receipt of the following:

Identification documents:

- If the individual made a request and consented in writing;
 - Birth Certificate
 - Social Security Card
 - MVA Identification Card
- DD214 - if the individual is a veteran;
- DOC release card/release certificate; and
- Any documents the individual had at intake.

Other contents:

- Funds remaining in the individuals' inmate bank account;
- Any personal property the individual had at intake;
- Continuity of Care Form that details ongoing treatment, medications, diet, and general guidelines for continued care;
- 30 day supply of medication;
- Entitlement documentation:
 - Medicaid number, and Medicaid card if the facility has received it
 - Maryland Health Connection contact information
 - Information on eligibility for and how to apply for SNAP benefits and other programs such as Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP) or Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) with their local Department of Human Services; and as applicable
- Notice of Sexual Offender Registration Requirement.
- In FY 2022, a total of 3,428 incarcerated individuals were released to the community. Based on this total, if the Department provided each individual seven days of clothing, the projected cost to the Department would be approximately **\$1.5**

million. The Department anticipates comparable costs in FY 2024.

- **CONCLUSION:** The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as it deliberates Senate Bill 744.