



## Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

### Office of Government & Legislative Affairs

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**BILL: SENATE BILL 620**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

**EXPLANATION:** Senate Bill 620 as amended, will require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services assist individuals with accessing federal pell grants, and will require the Department to set goals and track the number of individuals participating in post secondary education programs.

#### **COMMENTS:**

- The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services' (Department) Division of Correction operates 13 State correctional facilities housing offenders sentenced to periods of incarceration for 18 months and longer. The Department also oversees five facilities located in Baltimore City that houses pretrial detainees and incarcerated individuals sentenced to incarceration for periods of 18 months and less.
- The Department currently has partnerships with several colleges and universities who were awarded Second Chance Pell Grants, including Goucher College; Georgetown University; Wor-Wic Community College; the University of Baltimore, and Bowie State as well as the University System of Maryland.
- Currently, the Department's Director of Education coordinates the growth and development of post secondary education programing for incarcerated individuals. The Department will work in partnership with the Maryland Higher Education Commission on tracking the number of incarcerated individuals who participate in post secondary programs.

**CONCLUSION:** The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** vote on Senate Bill 620 as it passed out of the Senate.