



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of Government & Legislative Affairs

45 Calvert Street, Suite 7A, Annapolis, MD 21401
(443) 240-8696 • www.dpscs.maryland.gov

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REENTRY SERVICES

JANELLE B. MUMMEY
DIRECTOR

BILL: SENATE BILL 720

POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

EXPLANATION: Senate Bill 720 will require the Division of Correction to establish a program in Prince George's County that will provide formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals on probation with a full range of services, including but not limited to, counseling, legal, employment assistance, transportation assistance, housing assistance, medical information, and assistance in obtaining documents, such as State ID, a Social Security card and birth certificate

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.
- SB 720 would require the Division of Correction to establish a program to provide reentry services to formerly incarcerated individuals at a location in Prince George's County.
- The Department provides robust reentry services to incarcerated individuals for a successful return home after incarceration. The Department's Reentry and Transition Services Unit is responsible for the coordinated development and implementation of programs and services that will prepare incarcerated individuals for release. The Unit works closely with case management and reentry specialists to develop and support an incarcerated individual's rehabilitative efforts.
- Reentry services provided include medicaid enrollment, identification assistance, including birth certificates, social security and MVA identification cards, community and behavioral health

referrals, housing assistance, employment & career placement services, financial literacy training, social security and veteran services.

- There will be a substantial fiscal impact on the Department to establish a reentry program for formerly incarcerated individuals in a location in Prince George's County.
- Since the Division of Correction does not have a location in Prince George's County, a location and office space must be identified. There will be construction and other associated costs to make the space operational. In addition, there will be annual leasing costs for the office space, and appropriate staffing will be required to perform the services.

CONCLUSION: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as it deliberates Senate Bill 720.