

Carrington 2024 SB720 reentry.pdf

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FAV



CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC
Integrity.Passion.Results
Since 2008

SB720 - Correctional Services - Formerly Incarcerated Individuals and Individuals on Probation - Re-Entry Services

SUPPORT

Carrington & Associates, LLC is writing to express our firm support for Senate Bill 720 (SB 720), sponsored by Senator Benson.

Our position stems from a comprehensive analysis of the bill's fiscal and policy implications, as detailed in the fiscal and policy note provided by the Department of Legislative Services. SB 720 outlines a program, administered by the Division of Correction (DOC) in Prince George's County, aimed at providing critical re-entry services to formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals on probation.

We appreciate the bill's focus on assisting individuals with obtaining vital documents, State identification, information on housing, transportation, healthcare, legal assistance, anger management counseling, mental health services, substance abuse counseling and prevention services, employment assistance, and financial literacy courses.

Furthermore, we acknowledge the fiscal impact outlined in the fiscal note, which indicates a mandated appropriation of \$3.0 million annually from fiscal year 2026 onwards. While this represents a fiscal commitment, we believe the benefits in terms of reintegration, reducing recidivism, and improving community well-being justify this investment.

In terms of local effects, we recognize the potential benefit to Prince George's County, particularly if the DOC can provide services that would otherwise be shouldered by the county.

Additionally, we note the bill's potential positive impact on small businesses in Prince George's County, particularly if DOC engages with them for the required services.

Carrington & Associates, LLC applauds the efforts put forth in SB 720 to address the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals during re-entry. We look forward to witnessing the positive impact of this program on the community. We have worked for decades on reentry related issues.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

HB61 sb 720 Reentry Facility Services Position Sta

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Position: FAV



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB61\SB720 Correctional Services - Formerly Incarcerated Individuals and Individuals on Probation - Re-Entry Services

Delegates Taveras
and Taylor
(Judiciary)
Senator Benson
(Judicial Proceedings)

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB61\SB720 – Establishing a program within the Division of Correction that provides formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals on probation with certain services; requiring the facility that administers the program to be located in Prince George's County; and requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill for fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter an appropriation of \$3,000,000 for the program.

The Prince George's County Council takes great pride in our County's leadership in providing services and supports for returning citizens. Since 2003, when the concept of a "One-Stop Shop" for Re-Entry Services was first proposed, Prince George's County has shown an unwavering commitment to ensuring that we provide the necessary supports that returning citizens require to successfully return to society and reduce the incidents of recidivism. Our work is paying dividends, but there is so much work still left undone. HB61\SB720, along with several companion bills that the Council has under review for the 2024 legislative session, continues the necessary work that we started over 20 years ago.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB61\SB720** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

MD Catholic Conference_SB 720_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Garrett O'Day

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 28, 2024

SB 720

**Correctional Services - Formerly Incarcerated Individuals and Individuals on Probation -
Re-Entry Services**

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Position: FAVORABLE**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of Senate Bill 720. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 720 would establish a program within the Division of Correction that provides formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals on probation with services such as 1.) assistance obtaining vital documents, 2.) assistance obtaining state identification, 3.) information regarding housing, 4.) assistance in obtaining transportation, 5.) information regarding health care, 6.) legal assistance, including legal assistance related to child support, 7.) anger management counseling, 8.) mental health services, 9.) substance abuse counseling and prevention services, 10.) employment assistance, and 11.) financial literacy courses and training. The bill also provides an annual appropriation for the program.

In its pastoral statement "*Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice*" (USCCB, 2000), the United States conference of Catholic Bishops placed significant weight on efforts to reduce recidivism in criminal justice reform measures. The USCCB stated, "We call upon government to redirect the vast amount of public resources away from building more and more prisons and toward better and more effective programs aimed at crime prevention, rehabilitation, education efforts, substance abuse treatment, and programs of probation, parole and reintegration."

The Church maintains that systems of incarceration should be centered around restorative justice. Efforts to reduce incidences of recidivism are imperative to ensuring system-involved citizens have a legitimate chance to turn their lives around and lead productive lives upon release from incarceration. Moreover, providing inmates with vocational skill training both prior to or upon release from prison elevates the dignity of work in our state. The Conference supports legislation that promotes access to "education..... and above all employment, for it is through free, creative, participatory and mutually supportive labor that human beings express and enhance the dignity of their lives." (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 192). For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 720.

sb720- support services, release and probation JPR

Uploaded by: Lee Hudson

Position: FAV



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony Prepared for the
Judicial Proceedings Committee
on
Senate Bill 720
February 28, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to support restorative justice for adjudicated individuals in Maryland. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a faith community with congregations in every jurisdiction of our State.

Our community has engaged in a ministry to incarcerated individuals at Jessup since 1985, the Community of St. Dysmas. A goal of that effort is better outcomes for the incarcerated, and their communities. We hold what we believe can be a State interest in restorative justice, reducing recidivism and reclaiming human life for productive, thriving social engagement.

Those who have served in the pastoral office of that congregation have repeatedly reported that upon release, the previously incarcerated will have little to no social supports for community re-entry. "Rehabilitation" of the adjudicated will not be possible if the time on either of release has not been organized for social and economic achievement.

Senate Bill 720 would address this omission in what society likes to call "corrections" with support services on either side of release and probation. Services identified in the DLS fiscal note that our experience working on the inside indicates are currently missing and typically needed are: (3) *information regarding housing*; (4) *assistance in obtaining transportation*; (5) *information regarding health care*; (6) *legal assistance, including legal assistance related to child support*; (7) *anger management counseling*; (8) *mental health services*; (9) *substance abuse counseling and prevention services*; (10) *employment assistance*; and (11) *financial literacy courses and training*.

"Rehabilitative" and "Correctional" policies will not succeed without investment in the human subjects of their referents. Make the goal of adjudication restorative at least as much as punitive. Please give **Senate Bill 720** your favorable report.

Lee Hudson

SB720 FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Mills

Position: FAV

February 28, 2024

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and distinguished members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

NAMI Maryland and our 11 local affiliates across the state represent a network of more than 58,000 families, individuals, community-based organizations, and service providers. NAMI Maryland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to providing education, support, and advocacy for people living with mental illnesses, their families, and the wider community.

NAMI MD supports comprehensive re-entry policies and programs for people with mental illness who are returning to their community after a period of incarceration. People with mental illness are overrepresented in our nation's criminal justice system. Of the over 32,000 people held in our state's jails and prisons, nearly 2 in 5 have a history of mental illness.

Of those who are incarcerated, 95% will one day be released and will face a variety of challenges as they re-enter their communities.¹ Re-entry — the period of return to a community from incarceration — can be marked by heightened stress, isolation, and hardship. For people with mental illness and substance use disorders (SUD), there is increased vulnerability and risk. Due to the lack of timely access to critical services and support for their health or mental health condition, these individuals are at a higher risk of repeated incarceration. In fact, the risk of death by suicide or opioid overdose dramatically increases in the first days and weeks after an individual is released from jail or prison.²

When leaving jail or prison, it's important to have as much support as possible to be successful and healthy. Successful re-entry begins in the weeks and months before someone is released. Gaining access to housing, social supports (food, employment, education) and community supports (family, friends, social networks) are all critical for successful reintegration. Without connections to community supports, recently released individuals are at a higher risk of recidivism. Access to mental health care is equally important. In fact, research suggests that those who have health care coverage upon re-entry are more likely to engage in services and supports that reduce recidivism.³

NAMI MD believes that public policies should encourage comprehensive re-entry planning, including:

- Providing a warm handoff to community-based mental health and substance use disorder care;
- Increasing access to medications; and
- Connecting to supports, like housing and food assistance

These policies will more effectively address mental health care needs immediately before and during re-entry — and help save lives. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

¹ [Offender Reentry: Correctional Statistics, Reintegration into the Community, and Recidivism \(fas.org\)](https://www.fas.org/publications/reentry-statistics)

² [Mortality After Prison Release: Opioid Overdose and Other Causes of Death, Risk Factors, and Time Trends From 1999 to 2009 - PMC \(nih.gov\)](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33888888/)

³ <https://www.kff.org/uninsured/issue-brief/health-coverage-and-care-for-the-adult-criminal-justice-involved-population/>

SB 720 - MSAA Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Patrick Gilbert

Position: FAV



Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

3300 North Ridge Road, Suite 185

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

410-203-9881

FAX 410-203-9891

Rich Gibson
President

Steven I. Kroll
Coordinator

DATE: February 28, 2024

BILL NUMBER: SB 720

POSITION: Favorable

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) supports SB 720 and urges this Committee to issue a favorable report.

SB 720 establishes a program within the Division of Correction to provide formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals on probation with a diverse array of services, ranging from assistance obtaining identification documents and information regarding healthcare to mental health and substance abuse counseling. Reentry services are an investment in public safety – research has consistently demonstrated that individuals returning to their communities from incarceration are less likely to reoffend when they are afforded meaningful opportunities. *See, e.g., Philip Cook et al., An Experimental Evaluation of a Comprehensive Employment-Oriented Prisoner Re-entry Program, 31 JOURNAL OF QUANTITATIVE CRIMINOLOGY 355 (2014).* The Re-Entry Support Facility envisioned by this bill would serve as a navigator to help returning citizens overcome the barriers, like difficulty obtaining housing and employment, they face upon their release.

By breaking the cycle of recidivism, reentry programs like the one created in SB 720 directly contribute to public safety by preventing crime, ensuring safer communities and happier families. The cost of this program, and of reentry programs generally, is justified by the exponential benefits that result – these programs pay for themselves when returning citizens are able to successfully reintegrate into society and contribute to their communities. MSAA urges this Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 720.

SB 720 Individual on Probation Re-Entry Services

Uploaded by: Senator Joanne Benson

Position: FAV

JOANNE C. BENSON
Legislative District 24
Prince George's County

MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Education, Business and
Administration Subcommittee

Pensions Subcommittee

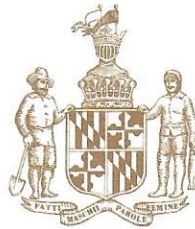
Joint Committees

Audit and Evaluation Committee

Children, Youth, and Families

Ending Homelessness

Fair Practices and
State Personnel Oversight



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 201
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3148 · 301-858-3148
800-492-7122 Ext. 3148
Fax 410-841-3149 · 301-858-3149
Joanne.Benson@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Joanne C. Benson
SB720**

**Correctional Services Formerly Incarcerated Individual and Individual on Probation
Re-Entry Services**

Good afternoon, Chairman Smith, and Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and the esteemed members of the committee, it is an honor to be before this esteemed body once again.

I am here to ask for your favorable report on SB720 Correctional Services - Formerly Incarcerated Individuals and Individuals on Probation - Re-Entry Services.

Maryland, with its rich diversity and dynamic communities, is currently grappling with a recidivism rate of 40%.

This figure highlights a pressing issue: nearly half of those released from our prisons are at risk of reoffending. This cycle affects not just the individuals and their families but also has broader implications for our communities and the state's economic well-being. In response, SB720 aims to introduce a robust re-entry program in Prince George's County, designed to offer essential support services including ID acquisition, housing, healthcare, legal aid, and employment assistance to effectively lower this rate.

The necessity of this bill is clear. The hurdles faced by individuals upon release, such as the lack of a valid ID, directly hinder their ability to reintegrate into society by complicating their efforts to find employment, secure housing, and access healthcare services. Considering Maryland's incarceration rate of 531 per 100,000 people and the significant number of individuals without a high school or GED credential, the path to reintegration is fraught with obstacles. However, access to stable employment has been shown to greatly diminish the likelihood of recidivism, highlighting the critical role of a well-structured support network like that proposed in SB720.

This bill represents more than just an attempt to reduce reoffending rates; it symbolizes a commitment to providing a second chance to those who have been marginalized. It acknowledges the untapped potential within everyone to make meaningful contributions to society when given the necessary support and opportunities. With an annual allocation of \$3,000,000 starting in 2026, this initiative reflects our state's dedication to enhancing public safety, upholding human dignity, and supporting the reintegration of individuals into society.

By endorsing SB720 we are choosing to invest in a safer, more equitable Maryland where every person has the chance to partake in and contribute to our collective success. This bill sets a foundation for a more compassionate, rehabilitative approach to public safety.

I am respectfully asking that this committee give SB720 a favorable report.

2024-02-27 SB 720 (Support).pdf

Uploaded by: Tiffany Clark

Position: FAV

CANDACE McLAREN LANHAM
Chief Deputy Attorney General



CHRISTIAN E. BARRERA
Chief Operating Officer

CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

ZENITA WICKHAM HURLEY
Chief, Equity, Policy, and Engagement

LEONARD HOWIE
Deputy Attorney General

PETER V. BERNS
General Counsel

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.
(410) 576-7036

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO
(410) 576-6592

February 28, 2024

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Tiffany Johnson Clark
Chief, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: Senate Bill 720 – Correctional Services - Formerly Incarcerated Individuals
and Individuals on Probation - Re-Entry Services– **Support**

The Office of Attorney General respectfully urges this Committee to give Senate Bill 720 – Correctional Services – Formerly Incarcerated Individuals and Individuals on Probation – Re-Entry Services a favorable report. Senate Bill 720 requires the Division of Correction to establish a program, administered in a facility located in Prince George’s County, that provides formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals on probation with (1) assistance obtaining vital documents; (2) assistance obtaining State identification; (3) information regarding housing; (4) assistance in obtaining transportation; (5) information regarding health care; (6) legal assistance, including legal assistance related to child support; (7) anger management counseling; (8) mental health services; (9) substance abuse counseling and prevention services; (10) employment assistance; and (11) financial literacy courses and training.

The United States incarcerates more people per capita than any other nation in the world. Over 7 million people are released from jails and prisons each year lacking the appropriate support for them to successfully reintegrate into their communities. Studies have continuously cited housing insecurity and barriers to education and employment opportunities as the biggest hurdles

individuals must overcome after a term of imprisonment. Often, when an individual is released from jail or prison, they do not know the proper steps to take to be able to start reintegrating into their communities. Many states and counties have established re-entry programs to help create opportunities for successful rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals released from jails and prisons into their communities. Establishing a re-entry program within the Department of Corrections would allow individuals released from jail or prison or who are on probation to have easy and convenient access to the services that would allow them to reintegrate into successfully.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report of Senate Bill 720.

cc: Judicial Proceedings Committee members

SB 720 - Correctional Services - Formerly Incarcer

Uploaded by: Kam Bridges

Position: FWA

JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 720

Correctional Services - Formerly Incarcerated Individuals and Individuals on Probation - Re-Entry Services

TO: Hon. William C. Smith, Jr., and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Job Opportunities Task Force

DATE: February 28, 2024

POSITION: Favorable with Amendments

The Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF) is an independent, nonprofit organization that develops and advocates policies and programs to increase the skills, job opportunities, and incomes of low-wage workers and job seekers in Maryland. **JOTF supports Senate Bill 720, which would establish a program in Prince George's County to provide formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals on probation with assistance obtaining vital documentation, identification, housing information, legal assistance, and other crucial supports.**

According to a special report by the U.S. Department of Justice [2018 Update on Prisoner Recidivism: A 9-Year Follow-up Period \(2005-2014\)](#), state prisoner recidivism rates average around 68 percent for rearrests within the first three years post-release. And according to a [report](#) by The Sentencing Project, a research and advocacy center working for decarceration in the United States and seeking to address racial disparities in the criminal justice system, a major contribution to recidivism rates throughout the United States is lack of resources or connection to resources that aid prisoners' prosocial integration into the community. People exiting prison from long-term confinement need stronger support around them. Many people exhibit a low crime risk but have high psychological, financial, and vocational demands that have been greatly exacerbated by their lengthy incarceration.

JOTF is in full support of SB 720, which takes these factors into account and provides returning citizens with resources to connect them with programs and organizations that can help them reintegrate into society. A centralized system that addresses the myriad issues that returning citizens have while trying to return into society is common sense solution that directly addresses the biggest factors for recidivism. This legislation actually gives formerly incarcerated people the tools to start on the right path, as opposed to releasing them with no support system and feigning surprise when they reoffend.

According to Maryland's Division of Correction, the average annual cost of room and board and health care per inmate was \$59,616. While the fiscal note takes into account the \$3 million annual appropriation, it does not consider either the annual savings for individuals who would otherwise be reoffenders if not for the program, or the tax revenues gained from individuals who obtain gainful employment through the program. In fact, even without taking into account the tax revenues, the program would essentially pay for itself if only 51 people per year avoid recidivism through this program. For this reason, JOTF supports this bill with an amendment that requires the program to report on one year and three-year recidivism rates for

JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes

individuals who came through the program to the Maryland General Assembly and DPCSC. Analyzing recidivism rates for program participants against the statewide recidivism rates would allow for cogent analysis of its effectiveness and allow for consideration of scalability in other jurisdictions such as Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

For these reasons, JOTF supports Senate Bill 720 and urges a favorable report with amendments.

For more information, contact:

Kam Bridges / Senior Public Policy Advocate / Kam@jotf.org

SB720_DPSCS_LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: Catherine Kahl

Position: INFO



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

STATE OF MARYLAND

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

CAROLYN J. SCRUGGS
ACTING SECRETARY

JOSEPH SEDTAL
DEPUTY SECRETARY
ADMINISTRATION

ANNIE D. HARVEY
DEPUTY SECRETARY
OPERATIONS

ANGELINA GUARINO
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
DATA, POLICY AND GRANTS

RENARD BROOKS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
PROGRAMS, TREATMENT AND
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.