



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 1098

March 26, 2024

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 1098– **Correctional Services – Diminution Credits – Sexual Offenses**

POSITION: Support

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 1098.

SB 1098 prohibits incarcerated individuals serving a sentence for first degree rape or first degree sexual offense from receiving diminution credits, as is currently allowable under the State of Maryland's Correctional Services Article 3-702. While the Justice Reinvestment Act of 2016 made needed improvements to requirements and permissions under Maryland law, there are still certain crimes – first degree rape and sexual assault – that should not allow for diminution credits.

Research has found a 30% recidivism rate at year 10 after sexual offenders are released from prison, and an increase to 52% re-offending by year 25.¹

Given the nature of the crime and concerns about recidivism, this legislation rightly prevents diminution credits from being applied to the sentences of those convicted on first degree rape or first degree sexual assault charges.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 1098.

¹ "Sex Offender Recidivism," NJCRS Office of Justice Programs, SART Toolkit
https://www.ncjrs.gov/ovc_archives/sartkit/about/about-sa-so-a.html