



**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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PROGRAMS, TREATMENT &
RE-ENTRY SERVICES

BILL: HOUSE BILL 185

POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION: This bill removes the Governor from the decision process of the Maryland Parole Commission to grant medical parole to an incarcerated individual serving a sentence of life imprisonment.

COMMENTS:

- The Maryland Parole Commission (MPC) hears cases for parole release and revocation across the entire State, and are authorized to parole incarcerated individuals sentenced to a term of confinement of six months or more from any correctional institution in Maryland except the Patuxent Institution.
- Medical parole allows consideration for the compassionate release of an incarcerated individual who is chronically debilitated, or incapacitated by a medical or mental health condition, disease or syndrome as to be physically incapable of presenting a danger to society to be released on medical parole at any time during the term of that inmate's sentence without regard to parole eligibility.
- A request for medical parole may be filed with the MPC by an incarcerated person seeking the medical parole, an attorney, prison official, medical professional, family member or any other person.
- MPC takes into consideration a number of considerations before granting medical parole, including medical and mental information, discharge information such as family support and housing, and case management information to include criminal history, institutional history among others.
- HB 185 removes the Governor from the medical parole decision process which would be consistent with the Senate Bill 202/Ch. 30 that passed in 2021 that removed the Governor from the regular parole process.

CONCLUSION: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** Committee vote on House Bill 185.