



**MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM**  
Citizens working to reform criminal justice in Maryland



[www.MA4JR.org](http://www.MA4JR.org)

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## **SB1085/HB1144**

### **Corrections—Segregated Housing—Limitations**

Solitary confinement—known in Maryland as “restrictive housing”—was originally intended to separate the most dangerous prisoners from others and to keep vulnerable prisoners safe temporarily. But in Maryland and elsewhere, solitary is used far more widely. Prisoners who have committed minor rule violations, many of whom are mentally ill, are often put in isolation, sometimes for long periods. Incarcerated prisoners in solitary typically live in small cells for up to 22+ hours a day—for weeks, months, or even years. This practice often causes irreparable physical and mental harm, both to the individual and to others with whom they may have contact.

The Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform ([MAJR](#)) joins with Interfaith Action for Human Rights ([IAHR](#)) in supporting SB1085/HB1144. It would cap the use of solitary; prohibit it for vulnerable people; severely limit the practice for juveniles; and allow those put in restrictive housing to contest their confinement. In addition, it would require that staff involved with restrictive housing undergo substantial training and that state correctional facilities publish a monthly report with information about individuals in restrictive housing.

Solitary confinement is a dangerous practice that sometimes amounts to torture. We urge you to give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Judith Lichtenberg  
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Member, executive committee  
Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR)

