



To: Members of The House Judiciary Committee
From: Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section
Date: February 9, 2024
Subject: **HB185 – Medical Parole – Life Imprisonment - Governor**
Position: **SUPPORT**

The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **Supports HB185 – Correctional Services – Medical Parole – Life Imprisonment - Governor.**

This bill removes the Governor from the approval process for medical parole. It closes a gap left by the adoption of earlier legislation that removed the Governor from other decisions related to inmates serving life sentences.

The growing number of inmates in the state penal system who are in need of a high degree of medical care poses continuing problems for the State. Removing an obstacle that can prevent the release of inmates who need care and who no longer pose a danger to the public is a wise action.

For the reasons stated, we **Support HB185.**

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section's Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at doyleniemann@verizon.com.

Should you have other questions, please contact The MSBA's Legislative Office at (410) 387-5606.