

KYM TAYLOR
Legislative District 23
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 203
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3331 · 301-858-3331
800-492-7122 Ext. 3331
Kym.Taylor@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 7, 2024

Supporting Testimony for HB1037 - Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services

Judiciary Committee

Good afternoon, Chair Clippinger and fellow members of the Judiciary Committee.

For the record, I am Delegate Kym Taylor, representing Prince George's County, District 23.

HB1037 establishes a Task Force that examines the feasibility of creating a Division of Returning Citizens within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The idea is to broaden the capacity and resources of the current Re-entry and Transition Services Unit by giving them Division level authority and more coordinative ability to deploy pre and post-release services equitably throughout the State of Maryland.

We want to leverage our Governor's commitment to increasing successful re-entry and reducing recidivism by delivering a report that would outline the costs associated with establishing a Division dedicated to preparing incarcerated individuals for a successful reintegration into the community.

The Task Force's responsibilities also include:

- **identifying *existing* re-entry services and potential gaps**
- **investigating how to expand housing, employment, education, socialization, legal, and health services for returning citizens**
- **coordinating pre/post-release assistance**

Those appointed to the Task Force include members of the re-entry community (State and local), workforce development and employment training organizations, re-entry activists, legal professionals, and family members of those incarcerated. These dedicated individuals will begin work in June 2024 and are charged to produce a report by December 2025.

I am particularly enthusiastic about HB1037 as our thoughtful and collective approach has earned the support of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland and the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus. I appreciate your support as well.

Please vote Favorable.