



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Secretary

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BILL: SENATE BILL 648

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

STATE OF MARYLAND

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EXPLANATION: SB 648 removes the Governor from the approval process of medical parole requests.

COMMENTS:

- The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Department) operates the Division of Correction (DOC), the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS), and the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP).
- In accordance with Correctional Services Article (CSA) §7–201, the Maryland Parole Commission (Commission) was established in the Department.
- SB 648 repeals Correctional Services Article (CSA) §7-309(I) provisions related to gubernatorial approval of a decision by the Maryland Parole Commission to grant medical parole to an inmate serving a term of life imprisonment.
- The Department requests the Committee add amendments to SB 648 to align with HB 1123:
 - o Requiring DPSCS to on a regular basis submit a roster of individuals to the Parole Commission that: are at least 60 years of age; was incarcerated for at least 20 years; has had no disciplinary infractions for the last three years; and are not serving life without parole (LWOP).
 - o Requiring the Parole Commission within 60 days of receiving the list to conduct a risk assessment of the individuals.
 - o Requiring the Parole Commission to hire psychologists to perform the risk assessments of individuals.

CONCLUSION: For these reasons, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests a FAVORABLE with AMENDMENTS Committee report on Senate Bill 648.