



# LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3185 • 301-858-3185 • 800-492-7122 Ext. 3185 • Fax 410-841-3175 • 301-858-3175 • Black.Caucus@house.state.md.us

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

### Chair

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20

### 1st Vice Chair

Delegate Melissa Wells, District 40

### 2nd Vice Chair

Delegate Karen R. Tolos, District 25

### Treasurer

Delegate Marlon Amprey, District 40

### Secretary

Delegate Jamila J. Woods, District 26

### Financial Secretary

Senator Arthur Ellis, District 28

### Chaplain

Delegate Jeffrie E. Long, Jr., District 27B

### Parliamentarian

Delegate Stephanie Smith, District 45

### Historian

Delegate Cheryl E. Pasteur, District 11A

### Executive Director

Ufuoma O. Agarin, J.D.

## MEMBERS

Senator Malcolm Augustine, District 47  
Senator Benjamin Brooks, District 10  
Senator Jill P. Carter, District 41  
Senator Nick Charles, District 25  
Senator Antonio L. Hayes, District 40  
Senator Michael A. Jackson, District 27  
Senator Cory V. McCray, District 45  
Senator C. Anthony Muse, District 26  
Senator William C. Smith, Jr., District 20  
Senator Charles E. Snyder III, Esq., District 44  
Senator Alanzo T. Washington, District 22  
Senator Mary L. Washington, District 43  
Senator Ron Watson, District 23  
Delegate Gabriel Acevero, District 39  
Delegate Jacqueline T. Addison, District 45  
Delegate Tiffany Alston, District 24  
Delegate Vanessa E. Attabeary, District 13  
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, District 32  
Delegate Adrian Boatof, District 23  
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, District 43A  
Delegate Frank M. Conway, Jr., District 40  
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19  
Delegate Dabra Davis, District 28  
Delegate Diana M. Fennell, District 47A  
Delegate Kevin M. Harris, District 27A  
Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison, District 24  
Delegate Shaneka Henson, District 30A  
Delegate Terri L. Hill, District 12  
Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., District 23  
Delegate Julian Ivey, District 47A  
Delegate Carl Jackson, District 8  
Delegate Andre V. Johnson, Jr., District 34A  
Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, District 10  
Delegate Jazz Lewis, District 24  
Delegate Robbyn Lewis, District 46  
Delegate Ashanti Martinez, District 22  
Delegate Aletheia McCaskill, District 44B  
Delegate Bernice Mireku-North, District 14  
Delegate Edith J. Patterson, District 28  
Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, District 21  
Delegate N. Scott Phillips, District 10  
Delegate Pamela Queen, District 14  
Delegate Kent Roberson, District 25  
Delegate Denise G. Roberts, District 25  
Delegate Mike Rogers, District 32  
Delegate Malcolm P. Ruff, District 41  
Delegate Gary Simmons, District 12B  
Delegate Dani Tavaras, District 47B  
Delegate Kym Taylor, District 23  
Delegate Veronica Turner, District 26  
Delegate Jennifer White Holland, District 10  
Delegate Nicole A. Williams, District 22  
Delegate C.T. Wilson, District 28  
Delegate Greg Wims, District 39  
Delegate Caylin Young, District 45

January 24, 2025

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr.  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Smith, Jr., Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

**The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers strong favorable support for Senate Bill 181 (SB0181) – Correctional Services – Geriatric and Medical Parole.** This bill introduces essential reforms to Maryland’s parole process, addressing the unique needs of elderly and medically incapacitated incarcerated individuals while ensuring a fair and humane approach to parole considerations. **Senate Bill 181 is a 2025 legislative priority for the Black Caucus.**

As the population of incarcerated individuals continues to age, the costs of medical care and supervision for geriatric and terminally ill individuals place significant financial burdens on Maryland’s correctional system. [The U.S. Department of Justice concluded in 2025](#) the aging prison population is significantly increasing healthcare costs, with older inmates often costing two to three times more to incarcerate than younger inmates due to their greater medical needs. To add, their studies have shown that prisons with high percentages of elderly inmates spend significantly more per inmate on medical care, sometimes up to five times more than prisons with lower elderly populations.

Senate Bill 181 requires the Maryland Parole Commission to consider the age of incarcerated individuals when determining parole eligibility, acknowledging the reduced likelihood of recidivism among older individuals. This approach aligns with evidence-based practices that emphasize risk assessment and proportionality in sentencing and parole decisions.

Additionally, the bill reforms the medical parole process by expanding eligibility to include individuals with chronic, debilitating conditions or terminal illnesses. It requires that the Maryland Parole Commission evaluate comprehensive medical assessments and consider community-based resources for housing and medical care. These changes help ensure that individuals who no longer pose a threat to public safety are afforded the opportunity for release in a manner that respects their dignity and addresses

their health needs.

To promote transparency and accountability, Senate Bill 181 mandates annual reporting by the Maryland Parole Commission to the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board. These reports will provide critical insights into the outcomes of geriatric and medical parole decisions, enabling ongoing assessment and refinement of policies to ensure fairness and efficacy.

By prioritizing the health and rehabilitation of elderly and medically vulnerable individuals, Senate Bill 181 advances principles of justice and equity while allowing Maryland to redirect resources toward effective reentry services and community support. The bill's provisions reflect the Caucus' commitment to addressing systemic disparities and advocating for reforms that uphold human rights within the criminal justice system.

Senate Bill 181 represents a thoughtful and compassionate approach to parole reform. It balances public safety with fiscal responsibility and humane treatment, ensuring that policies reflect Maryland's values of equity and fairness. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports Senate Bill 181 and urges a favorable vote.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland