



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB0311

February 25, 2025

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 311 – Correctional Services - Medical Parole - Life Imprisonment

POSITION: **Support**

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 311 – Correctional Services - Medical Parole - Life Imprisonment.

HB 311 repeals the provision within Article – Correctional Services, §7–309(i) that requires the Governor's approval of a decision by the Maryland Parole Commission (MPC) to grant medical parole to an incarcerated individual serving a term of life imprisonment. Under this bill, the Governor would no longer have the authority to disapprove the medical parole of an incarcerated serving a term of life imprisonment.

Chapter 299 of 2008 established medical parole as a form of release from incarceration in a State or local correctional facility for incapacitated incarcerated individuals who, as a result of a medical or mental health condition, disease, or syndrome, pose no danger to public safety. In addition, Chapter 30 of 2021 eliminated the requirement that the Governor approve the parole of a person serving a parole-eligible life sentence. This action depoliticized the process of parole by no longer allowing the Governor to overturn decisions to a grant of parole by the MPC. However, due to a drafting error with this legislation, medical parole was excluded. This bill would correct this error and allow the MPC to efficiently respond to the urgent nature of medical parole needs. This is an important fix as individuals approved for medical parole are, in some cases, seriously ill or dying, but, in all cases, no longer a threat to public safety and therefore should not be incarcerated for longer than necessary due to inefficient and outdated procedure.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** committee report on HB 311.