

J. SANDY BARTLETT  
Legislative District 32  
Anne Arundel County

Vice Chair  
Judiciary Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 101  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3370 · 301-858-3370  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3370  
Sandy.Bartlett@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**FAVORABLE – HB1123: Correctional Services – Medical and Elder Parole**

TO: Chair Clippinger, members of the Judiciary Committee

In presenting my final parole bill today, HB1123: Correctional Services – Medical and Elder Parole, to the Chair and Committee, I would like to begin by addressing the purpose of this bill. First, HB1123 works to remove the governor from the medical parole process, acting as a technical fix to 2021 legislation. Second, this bill creates new eligibility criteria for geriatric parole consideration, including that an individual is at least 60 years old, has served at least 20 years of their sentence, and has not had any major disciplinary infractions within the past 3 years. Those who meet these criteria would be required to undergo a risk assessment and parole hearing by the Commission. Lastly, a portion of the savings made will be directed to the Commission by the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board for hiring more psychologists to conduct these risk assessments.

Reforming medical and elder parole in Maryland is crucial for protecting our aging and vulnerable incarcerated populations. We have a serious problem involving a wait time for medical parole review that needs to be addressed. Removing the governor from this process will help more individuals to be considered and streamline this process. Further, outlining these standards for elder parole would enable the system to be more predictable and fair for older individuals who pose no significant threat to public safety. This bill recognizes that older adults are not the same as younger offenders in terms of rehabilitation and risk, and therefore, should be evaluated through a lens that accounts for their unique circumstances.

It is crucial to prioritize public safety while also ensuring a balance with the broader interests of our criminal justice system. This bill not only strikes that balance but also alleviates some of the financial costs that medical and elder populations place on our system. Ultimately, with HB1123, we aim to promote fairness, efficiency, and compassion.

Thank you for your consideration. A favorable report is requested.