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February 11, 2026

TO: The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment

FROM: Tiffany Clark
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: Senate Bill 241 - Election Law - Individuals Released From State
Correctional Facilities - Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration
(Support in Concept)

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports in concept Senate Bill 241 - Election Law - Individuals Released From State Correctional Facilities - Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration. SB 241 proposes to require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to automatically restore voter registration for individuals released from State correctional facilities who were previously registered to vote in Maryland.

This legislation directly supports our efforts to advance criminal justice reform and facilitate successful reentry for returning citizens. Maryland law already restored voting rights to individuals upon release from incarceration, effective March 2016. Current law requires DPSCS to provide voter registration applications and documentation informing individuals that their voting rights have been restored. SB 241 builds on this foundation by making the restoration process automatic rather than requiring individuals to take affirmative steps during a challenging transition period.

Automatic voter registration restoration removes unnecessary barriers to civic participation during reentry while including appropriate privacy protections. The bill requires weekly electronic transmission of release information from DPSCS to the State Board of Elections, which would then restore registration status and notify individuals of their restored rights. Importantly, the legislation prohibits public disclosure under the Public Information Act that a

voter was registered through this process, protecting individuals from potential stigma while preserving their civic participation rights.

This legislation aligns with the priorities of the Maryland Equitable Justice Collaborative, particularly recommendations calling for expanded reentry programming and support services. It also complements the work of the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services by streamlining administrative processes that facilitate successful community reintegration.

We appreciate the General Assembly's work on this important policy and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective.

Cc: Members of the Committee