

CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI
Chief Deputy Attorney General

LEONARD J. HOWIE III
Deputy Attorney General

CARRIE J. WILLIAMS
Deputy Attorney General

SHARON S. MERRIWEATHER
Deputy Attorney General

ZENITA WICKHAM HURLEY
Deputy Attorney General



PETER V. BERNS
General Counsel

CHRISTIAN E. BARRERA
Chief of Staff

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General

April 1, 2026

TO: The Honorable Melissa Wells
Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections

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, as amended, requires the State Board of Elections to promptly restore voter registration for individuals released from State correctional facilities who were previously registered to vote in Maryland, among other things.

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 the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services 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.

This will help remove unnecessary barriers to civic participation during reentry while including appropriate privacy protections. 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