

SB 984/HB 1017: Correctional Services - Private Detention Facilities - Zoning Requirement: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to vote to oppose **SB 984/HB 1017**.

While I understand the importance of appropriate oversight for correctional facilities, I am concerned that this legislation may introduce unnecessary constraints within the zoning process that could limit local flexibility and create unintended barriers to facility planning and operations.

Zoning decisions are best handled at the local level, where officials can account for the unique needs, priorities, and conditions of their communities. Imposing additional statewide requirements in this area will complicate established processes and reduce the ability of local jurisdictions to make timely and effective decisions.

The retroactive application requirement could jeopardize existing or planned facilities, increase costs, reduce capacity for necessary detention, and burden taxpayers indirectly through higher enforcement challenges or litigation.

This legislation effectively gives local governments and activist-driven zoning boards a tool to obstruct federal immigration policy, potentially creating safe havens or logistical barriers for federal operations.

Singling out private detention facilities while allowing other similar uses under general zoning classifications is discriminatory and driven more by political opposition to immigration enforcement than by legitimate land-use concerns.

Maryland and local municipalities already have zoning laws and local planning processes. This bill adds a politically motivated layer that prioritizes politics over public safety and cooperation with federal law.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose **SB 984/HB 1017**.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns regarding this important land use and zoning and detention and public safety legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals