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March 5, 2026

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

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

**RE:** House Bill 1340 – State Government – Prison Education Delivery Reform  
Commission – Establishment (Support)

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The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports House Bill 1340 - State Government – Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission – Establishment. House Bill 1340 establishes the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission as a permanent, independent unit of State government charged with developing recommendations for the optimal delivery of education to individuals subject to the criminal and juvenile justice systems in order to increase public safety and reduce recidivism.

This legislation directly supports our efforts to advance criminal justice reform and reduce recidivism in Maryland. The Commission's work aligns closely with the recommendations of the Maryland Equitable Justice Collaborative (MEJC), which the OAG has championed. Specifically, the bill implements MEJC Recommendation #12, which calls for expanding and improving community-based reentry programming and data collection on the effectiveness of reentry services, and MEJC Recommendation #16, which calls for improving GED attainment rates for justice-involved youth. The Commission's statutory mandate to develop an education-focused statewide framework, research best practices for primary through postsecondary education for justice-involved individuals, and evaluate the effectiveness of current workforce programs in generating living-wage employment opportunities directly advances these goals.

The Commission was originally created by Senate Bill 623 during the 2024 legislative session, and House Bill 1340 codifies and strengthens that existing body by elevating it to a permanent

independent unit of State government with staggered four-year member terms and an annual reporting requirement to the Governor and General Assembly beginning January 1, 2027.

We appreciate Delegates Amprey and Ruff's leadership on this important policy and the General Assembly's continued commitment to building a more equitable and effective criminal justice system. For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General respectfully urges the Committee to give House Bill 1340 a favorable report.

Cc: Members of the Committee