



## SB 908 – Correctional Services – Restrictive Housing

MCAA Position: **OPPOSE**

TO: Judicial Proceedings Committee

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FROM: Christopher Klein, President  
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The Maryland Correctional Administrator’s Association (MCAA), representing local detention center wardens and administrators statewide, **STRONGLY OPPOSES Senate Bill 908**. While the bill’s intent is commendable, its provisions are vague and create significant safety and legal risks.

The key concerns include ambiguous statutory language: 10-1001, Page 6, Terms such as “recently (Lines 7-8), “perceived” (Lines 10-11), and “longer than necessary (Line 16) lack clear definitions, creating liability for misinterpretation.

Local detention centers were never designed to implement restrictive housing as outlined in SB 908. Compliance would require extensive and costly renovations – or even new construction – placing an unsustainable financial burden on counties. More critically, the bill undermines correctional administrators’ ability to maintain order and protect both staff and incarcerated individuals. Restrictive housing is a proven, essential tool for preventing violence, safeguarding vulnerable populations, and ensuring institutional stability.

Correctional administrators have a constitutional obligation under the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to protect incarcerated individuals from harm. Limiting restrictive housing could expose facilities to claims of deliberate indifference if administrators are unable to separate individuals who pose a clear threat to themselves or others.

By severely limiting this tool, SB 908 would force correctional administrators into untenable positions where they cannot mitigate known risks, jeopardize lives, and expose jurisdictions to significant legal and financial liability. The unintended consequences of this legislation would compromise safety, as Correctional Administrators will be unable to manage dangerous individuals or protect vulnerable individuals, and increase operational chaos.

For these reasons, MCAA urges the committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 908**. Protecting safety and security must remain the priority.