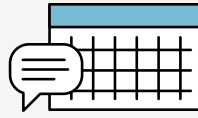


HB 16/SB 823 & HB 467/SB 822 would update the current Maryland parole process to improve transparency and equity in each of the areas identified below.



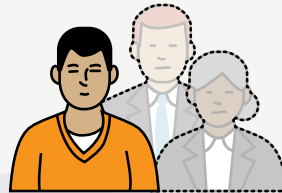
**1 Eligibility**<sup>1</sup>

Incarcerated people become parole-eligible after serving:  
**25%** of a non-violent offense  
**50%** of a violent offense



**2 Scheduling**<sup>2</sup>

The Parole Commission schedules hearings as people become eligible.



**3 Hearing\***

Hearings are conducted by a single hearing examiner (most common), by a commissioner (acting as a hearing examiner) or by a panel (two commissioners), based on the offense.



**4 Parole Decision**

Individuals receive a decision within 21 days (hearing examiner) or within 30 days (commissioner).



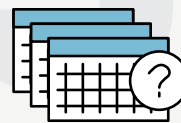
**GRANTED**

The person is released and remains on parole until the end of their maximum sentence.



**DENIED**

The person remains in prison until they are permitted to apply for another hearing.



**5 Rehearing**

Incarcerated people must *apply* for subsequent hearings—the Commission has full discretion to refuse those requests regardless of parole eligibility.



Individuals may have as little as 15 days notice and must *request* to review their documents.



HB 467 / SB 822 would make documents automatically available for review.



Current law doesn't require subsequent hearings or establish a timeline.



HB 467 / SB 822 would establish a set schedule for subsequent parole hearings

\* FIGURE 1 (P. 1) EXPLAINS ISSUES WITH HOW PAROLE COMMISSIONERS AND HEARING EXAMINERS ARE APPOINTED AND UTILIZED.

FIGURE 3 (P. 3) DESCRIBES IN DETAIL HOW MOST HEARINGS ARE DECIDED BY A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL RATHER THAN A PANEL.



Commissioners / Hearing Examiners are not required to give reasoning or justification for parole decisions.



HB 467 / SB 822 would require the decision and justification to be given to the incarcerated person within 14 days .



The Commission issued hearing *refusals* to over a thousand eligible people in both FY23/ FY 24, including hundreds with non-violent offenses.



HB 467 / SB 822 would require subsequent hearings to be automatically scheduled every 2, 3, or 5 years, depending on the person's length of sentence and incarcerating offense.

1. Md. Code, Corr. Servs. § 7-301

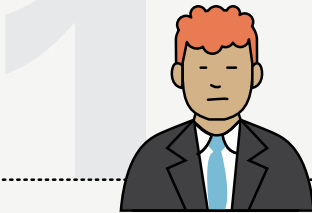
2. According to a records request to DPSCS, people may apply for a subsequent hearing every year (if serving <10 years) or every two years (if serving >10 years).

Most people's hearings are conducted by a **single person** who is *not* an appointed commissioner.<sup>3</sup>



**HB 16 would increase the size of the commission and require all parole hearings to be conducted by commissioners.**

**MOST COMMON**



The majority of parole hearings are held by a **single Hearing Examiner**, or by a commissioner acting as a hearing examiner.



Approximately 9,000 parole eligible people will have a hearing with only one person. The hearing examiner submits their report to the Commission. If the Commission does not file an exception (appeal), the recommendation becomes the final decision.

**LESS COMMON (CERTAIN OFFENSES)**



For certain offenses, such as homicide or for parole-eligible life sentences, hearings are conducted by a panel of at least **two Commissioners**.



Approximately 6,000 people serving sentences for homicide or parole-eligible life sentences will have a panel hearing with at least two commissioners. A unanimous decision of two commissioners is required. If the two do not agree, a new panel of three commissioners is formed to rehear the case. The majority vote of the three is the decision.

**RARE UNDER CURRENT LAW**



Only those convicted of a crime post-October 2021 and given a parole-eligible life sentence have a hearing before the **full Commission**.



A grant requires the affirmative vote of six commissioners — there are currently only seven. There are few, if any, individuals impacted by this provision that are currently parole eligible.

3. Md. Code, Corr. Servs. § 7-304, Md. Code, Corr. Servs. § 7-306, Md. Code, Corr. Servs. § 7-307