

SB0944_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
02/25/2026
Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

TESTIMONY ON SB#0944 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Correctional Services - Reentry Readiness Program

TO: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0944, **Correctional Services - Reentry Readiness Program**

This bill will provide help to those who have been incarcerated in their return to society after completing their sentence. The bill will establish the Reentry Readiness Program in the Department of 4 Public Safety and Correctional Services. It will specify what other Maryland agencies will staff and administer the program.

The bill will require the program staff assistance to each returning citizen in:
enrolling in vocational, workforce training, and job placement programs

- obtaining a certified copy of the returning citizen's birth certificate
- ...obtaining a photo identification or driver's license.

At least 90 days before the anticipated release from confinement of a returning citizen, program staff within the releasing institution shall assist a returning citizen in completing and submitting any necessary applications and documents for enrolling in a vocational, workforce training, or job placement program. At least 60 days before the anticipated release from confinement of a returning citizen, the commissioner and the program staff within a releasing institution shall provide the returning citizen the appropriate forms for obtaining a photo identification card ... or a driver's license from the motor vehicle administration. They shall also assist the returning citizen in completing the forms. At least 30 days before the anticipated release from confinement of a returning citizen, program staff shall verify that the returning citizen has received assistance as required.

This bill meets the requirements by establishing the Reentry Readiness Program in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; and requiring the Department to work jointly with the Motor Vehicle Administration, the Division of Vital Records in the Maryland Department of Health, and the Department of Labor to staff and administer the Program.

If the end result of incarceration is rehabilitation this bill adds positive steps to assist in a reintegration into society of formerly incarcerated individuals.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0944.