



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

April 1st 2026

HB1018

**Correctional Services - Correctional Facilities and Immigration Detention Facilities -
Minimum Mandatory Standards
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of **House Bill 1018**. The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 1018 directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt regulations that govern the care, custody, and conditions of individuals in these facilities. It also strengthens oversight by requiring the reporting of violations and security breaches and clarifies the role of the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards.

This bill ensures that all individuals in detention, particularly civil detainees, are treated with basic dignity and humanity. By establishing consistent standards and strengthening accountability measures, the bill seeks to address gaps that can lead to unsafe or inhumane conditions. It reflects a commitment to ensuring that systems of custody operate responsibly and transparently. It promotes safer, more humane conditions within detention facilities, reduces the risk of neglect or mistreatment, and strengthens public confidence in oversight systems. Families gain reassurance that their loved ones will be treated with dignity, and communities benefit from systems that uphold fairness and accountability.

During times of profound hardship, when individuals and families are facing some of the most difficult and uncertain moments of their lives, we respectfully ask Maryland legislators to take meaningful steps to help alleviate this suffering. Our faith calls us to uphold the dignity of every human person, regardless of circumstance. Even in detention, individuals must be treated with respect, care, and humanity.

Ensuring that loved ones are held in safe and humane conditions provides families with a sense of reassurance and allows them to seek support and services without the added burden of fearing inhumane treatment. Maryland has the opportunity to lead by example—by rejecting mistreatment and affirming the value and dignity of every person. Let us strive to be a state that brings hope in place of despair and replaces fear with compassion and care.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference urges a favorable report on **House Bill 1018**