

**Ivan Bates**  
President



**Kirsten N. Brown**  
Executive Director

Maryland State's Attorneys' Association  
3300 North Ridge Road, Suite 185  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043  
[kbrown@mdsaa.org](mailto:kbrown@mdsaa.org) ~ 301-748-1312

**Date: February 23, 2026**

**Bill Number: Senate Bill 823**

**Position: Unfavorable**

### **LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 823**

The Maryland State's Attorney's Association (MSAA) urges an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 823.

Senate Bill 823 would create a nominating panel for parole commissioners. Under current law, the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services selects parole commissioners, requiring the approval of the Governor and the consent of the Senate.

Mandatory release occurs when an inmate obtains enough earned credits, such as diminution credits or work credits, to mandate a statutory release from commitment. Unlike mandatory release, parole in Maryland is an earned release based on demonstrated institutional adjustment as determined by the Maryland Parole Commission.

Crime victims and their families are impacted significantly during the parole process. It is often difficult for crime victims to understand why or how an offender will be released back into the community before serving the full sentence imposed. Crime victims deserve to have a prominent voice in the parole process.

If a nominating panel is to be created, it is critical to strike a balance of panel members with experience in managing violent offenders, assessing public safety risk, and victims' rights representatives. SB 823 does not. Instead, SB 823 proposes a panel of advocates, members of the public and others who may not have any particularized experience in the complexities of managing violent offenders, assessing public safety risks. This will inevitably be to the detriment of victims and their families who are relying on the system to continue to duly hold accountable criminal offenders justly sentenced in court.

For the above reasons, MSAA urges an unfavorable report on SB823.