
TO: House Judiciary Committee

BILL: House Bill (HB) 16- Correctional Services - Maryland Parole Commission - Members and Hearing Examiners

DATE: March 3, 2026

POSITION: Letter of Information

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing information regarding House Bill 16, which creates a panel that will develop a list of nominees for the Governor’s consideration to serve on the Maryland Parole Commission. The panel will include the State Superintendent of Schools.

MSDE’s mission is to provide leadership, support, and accountability for effective public education and rehabilitation services, ensuring all Maryland students have access to a world-class educational system. It aims to prepare students for success in college, career, and life. Expertise in the Department spans instruction, early childhood and youth development, special education, student services, and several additional areas related to the effective and safe operation of public schools.

MSDE recognizes the important relationship between educational access and long-term life outcomes, including interactions with the justice system. However, the work of the Maryland Parole Commission requires subject-matter expertise in correctional policy and post-incarceration supervision, areas that fall outside the Department’s statutory authority and primary areas of specialization. Given the Department’s focus and expertise, MSDE may not be best positioned to contribute to the work of the Commission.

MSDE requests that, should the panel include the State Superintendent of Schools, HB 16 be amended to state that this seat on the panel will be filled by the Superintendent, “or the Superintendent’s designee.”

MSDE respectfully requests consideration of these comments as HB 16 is discussed and deliberated. For further information, please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director of Government Affairs, at 443-571-5461 or Laurel.Cratsley@maryland.gov.