



**February 17, 2026  
House - Judiciary Committee**

**Testimony in Support of HB 759 – Criminal Procedure – Motion to Reduce  
Duration of Sentence – Repeal of Sentencing Date Limitation**

**Submitted by Olinda Moyd, Esq.**

The Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR) supports a favorable vote on HB 759. HB 759 is a simple bill that ensures fundamental fairness and compliance with the U.S. Constitution in sentencing review.

MAJR has supported legislation recently enacted providing resentencing mechanisms (JUVRA and SLA) and it is imperative that the law be applied equitably. In 2025, the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed into law the Maryland Second Look Act. Effective October 1, 2025, the Second Look Act amended CP § 8-110 to also allow certain individuals who have been imprisoned for at least 20 years for crimes that occurred when they were young adults (18-24) to file a motion to reduce their sentence if they meet the criteria. The legislation currently mandates that the individual be *sentenced for the offense before October 1, 2021*. The sentencing date limitation in the statute should be repealed to achieve fair and just sentencing opportunities for eligible individuals in Maryland.

The current legislation creates an unconstitutional inconsistency, where individuals ages 18 to 24 receive an opportunity for review only if they were sentenced before October 1, 2021, whereas individuals who were sentenced after this date do not. For example, if Mr. A and Mr. B are co-defendants and Mr. A was sentenced on September 30, 2021, and Mr. B was sentenced on October 2, 2021, Mr. A would be eligible for a sentencing review and, under the current legislation, Mr. B would not. After a decade and a half of U.S. Supreme Court jurisprudence emphasizing how children and young people are less culpable and more capable of change than adults for the purposes of criminal sentencing, it is contrary to Constitutional protections that individuals would be excluded merely based on a sentencing date limitation. Maryland laws must be fair and consistent to build societal trust, ensure equitable treatment, provide legal certainty and uphold respect for our criminal legal system.

HB 759 is a common-sense, straightforward technical fix to ensure these disparities don't exist. A meaningful opportunity for review should be available to all eligible individuals, regardless of when they were sentenced.

We urge a favorable reporting on HB 759. Thank you for your serious consideration of this legislation.

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