



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3185 • 800-492-7122 Ext. 3185 • Black.Caucus@house.maryland.gov

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Chair, Delegate Sandy J. Bartlett
Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Delegate Bartlett and Members of the Committee,

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers its strong and favorable support for House Bill 935 - Correctional Services - Comprehensive Rehabilitative Prerelease Services - Female Incarcerated Individuals. This important legislation strengthens Maryland's reentry infrastructure by ensuring that incarcerated women receive comprehensive, gender-responsive prerelease services that prepare them for successful reintegration into their families and communities. **This bill is a 2026 legislative priority for the Black Caucus.**

House Bill 935 updates specifications for a prerelease facility dedicated to female incarcerated individuals and requires the Department of General Services to oversee procurement for its construction. The bill further mandates that the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services implement comprehensive prerelease services and provide legislative reporting to ensure transparency and accountability. By formalizing these requirements in statute, Maryland affirms its commitment to structured, evidence-based reentry planning.

Women in the correctional system often face unique and compounded challenges, including histories of trauma, caregiving responsibilities, housing instability, and limited access to economic opportunity. Without adequate prerelease planning and supportive services, these barriers increase the likelihood of recidivism and long-term instability. **House Bill 935** promotes public safety by addressing these realities directly: prioritizing education, workforce readiness, mental health services, and coordinated transition planning to reduce the risk of reoffending.

This legislation is particularly important given the disproportionate impact of incarceration on Black women and women from economically marginalized communities. Strengthening gender-responsive prerelease services advances equity within Maryland's correctional system and supports healthier outcomes for families and children who are directly affected by maternal incarceration. When returning citizens are equipped with the tools needed to secure employment, stable housing, and community support, the benefits extend far beyond the individual.

Additionally, **HB 935** strengthens oversight by requiring reporting and review to ensure that services are effectively implemented. Accountability mechanisms are essential to maintaining the integrity of reentry programs and to ensuring that appropriated resources achieve measurable outcomes.

Ultimately, **House Bill 935** reflects Maryland's commitment to rehabilitation, public safety, and human dignity. By investing in comprehensive prerelease services for incarcerated women, the State promotes stability, reduces recidivism, and strengthens families and communities across Maryland. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland urges favorable consideration of **House Bill 935**.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland