

CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI
Chief Deputy Attorney General

LEONARD J. HOWIE III
Deputy Attorney General

CARRIE J. WILLIAMS
Deputy Attorney General

SHARON S. MERRIWEATHER
Deputy Attorney General

ZENITA WICKHAM HURLEY
Deputy Attorney General



PETER V. BERNS
General Counsel

CHRISTIAN E. BARRERA
Chief of Staff

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General

March 5, 2026

TO: The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett
Chair, Judiciary Committee

FROM: Tiffany Clark
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 1347 – Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and Requirements (Bri's Law)(Support In Concept)

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports in concept House Bill 1347 - Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and Requirements (Bri's Law). House Bill 1347 establishes a task force charged with studying post-release programs and requirements across all types of release from incarceration in Maryland and making recommendations to reduce recidivism.

This legislation directly supports our efforts to advance evidence-based criminal justice reform and reduce the racial disparities that persist in Maryland's reentry outcomes. Maryland's 2022 recidivism rate of 31.55%—and the disproportionate barriers faced by Black Marylanders upon release—underscore the need for a systematic examination of whether existing post release programming is meeting its goals. A dedicated study of this kind would generate the evidence base necessary to inform meaningful legislative and administrative improvements.

We appreciate the General Assembly's work on this important policy and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective. The OAG notes, however, two areas where the Committee may wish to consider refinements before the bill moves forward.

First, the Task Force's membership is relatively narrow. As currently structured, the body does not include representatives from community-based reentry organizations, individuals with lived experience of incarceration, behavioral health providers, or housing and employment service providers. Broadening the membership to reflect the full spectrum of stakeholders with relevant

expertise and lived experience would strengthen the Task Force's findings and the credibility of its recommendations.

Second, the Task Force's mandate may overlap with the existing Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services, established by House Bill 1037 (2024).

Subject to these concerns, the OAG believes House Bill 1347 is a constructive step toward improving reentry outcomes in Maryland.

Cc: Members of the Committee