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POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

BILL: House Bill 527 - Correctional Services – Home Detention – Removal

FROM: Maryland Office of the Public Defender

POSITION: Unfavorable

DATE: 03/03/2026

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender respectfully requests that the Committee issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 527

House Bill 527 requires the removal of an individual from home detention if the individual violates the conditions of their home detention. A mandatory removal from home detention without an opportunity to review mitigating circumstances removes the discretion of the Commissioner of Corrections. It mandates an outcome regardless of the circumstances, including if the violation was technical in nature. Such an extreme requirement is not only unnecessary but potentially harmful to individuals who may be performing well on home detention overall but make a minor mistake. Moreover, it is extremely expensive to house individuals in prison or jail. Maryland taxpayers deserve smart on crime policies that permit the Commissioner of Corrections some modicum of discretion when it comes to revoking home detention.

For these reasons, the Maryland Office of the Public Defender urges this Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 527.

Submitted by: Maryland Office of the Public Defender, Government Relations Division.