

HB0467_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#0467 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Correctional Services - Maryland Parole Commission - Improvements in Transparency and Equity

TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0467, **Correctional Services - Maryland Parole Commission - Improvements in Transparency and Equity**

In Maryland, parole denial is common, with the Commission often requiring inmates to wait 3–10 years for a rehearing, or in some cases, refusing future consideration entirely, effectively converting sentences to life without parole. Decisions are based on crime severity, institutional record, and risk, often made by hearing examiners rather than commissioners.¹

Key Aspects of Parole Denial in Maryland

- **Process:** The Maryland Parole Commission (MPC) must review factors like the crime, remorse, and, if applicable, victim input.
- **Outcomes:**
 - Denial/Rehearing
 - Refusal
 - Risk Assessment
- **No Automatic Scheduling**
- **Hearing Examiners**
- **Right to Appeal/Information**

This bill aims to create more just outcomes for prisoners in Maryland by changing the processes of parole.

This bill will require the annual report of the Maryland Parole Commission to contain certain information; altering a certain provision of law to require the Commission to provide certain documents to a certain incarcerated individual at a certain time, rather than allow the incarcerated individual to examine the documents on request; requiring the Commission to document, state on the record, provide to an incarcerated individual, and make available to the public certain information; etc.

This information that will now be provided can assist in assuring that each individual applying for parole is treated in a just manner and is given the information needed to ensure their case is fairly adjudicated.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0467.

¹ Google AI Search “denial of parole in Maryland”