

Chapter 61

(Senate Bill 494)

AN ACT concerning

**Juveniles Convicted as Adults – Sentencing – Limitations and Reduction
(Juvenile Restoration Act)**

FOR the purpose of authorizing a court, when sentencing a minor convicted as an adult, to impose a sentence less than the minimum term required by law; prohibiting a court from imposing a sentence of life without the possibility of parole or release for a minor; authorizing a certain individual to file a motion to reduce the duration of the individual's sentence; requiring the court to conduct a hearing on a motion to reduce the duration of a sentence; requiring that an individual be present at a hearing on a motion to reduce the duration of a sentence unless the individual waives the right to be present; specifying that the requirement that an individual be present at a certain hearing is satisfied if the hearing is conducted by video conference; ~~requiring a State's Attorney to provide certain notice to a victim and a victim's representative of a hearing; providing that a victim and a victim's representative have a certain right to attend a hearing;~~ *authorizing a certain individual to introduce evidence in support of a certain motion at a certain hearing; authorizing the State to introduce evidence in support of or in opposition to a certain motion at a certain hearing; requiring that notice of a certain hearing be given to a certain victim or victim's representative in a certain manner;* authorizing a court to reduce the duration of a sentence for a certain individual under certain circumstances; requiring a court to consider certain factors when determining whether to reduce the duration of a sentence for a certain individual; requiring a court to issue a decision to grant or deny a motion to reduce the duration of a sentence in writing; requiring a certain decision to address certain factors; providing that a subsequent motion to reduce the duration of a sentence may be filed only after a certain period of time; ~~authorizing a court to impose certain preconditions to granting a motion to reduce the duration of a sentence for a certain individual;~~ limiting the number of times that an individual may file a motion to reduce the duration of a sentence; *providing for the application of a certain provision of this Act;* and generally relating to the sentencing of minors *and the reduction of the duration of certain sentences.*

BY adding to

Article – Criminal Procedure

Section 6–235 and 8–110

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Criminal Procedure

6-235.

NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, WHEN SENTENCING A MINOR CONVICTED AS AN ADULT, A COURT:

(1) MAY IMPOSE A SENTENCE LESS THAN THE MINIMUM TERM REQUIRED UNDER LAW; AND

(2) MAY NOT IMPOSE A SENTENCE OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE OR RELEASE.

8-110.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

(1) WAS CONVICTED AS AN ADULT FOR AN OFFENSE COMMITTED WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL WAS A MINOR;

(2) WAS SENTENCED FOR THE OFFENSE BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2021;
AND

(3) HAS BEEN IMPRISONED FOR AT LEAST 20 YEARS FOR THE OFFENSE.

~~(A)~~ (B) (1) AN INDIVIDUAL ~~CONVICTED AS AN ADULT FOR AN OFFENSE COMMITTED WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL WAS A MINOR~~ DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY FILE A MOTION WITH THE COURT TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF THE SENTENCE.

(2) A COURT SHALL CONDUCT A HEARING ON A MOTION TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF A SENTENCE.

(3) (I) THE INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE PRESENT AT THE HEARING, UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL WAIVES THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT.

(II) THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE INDIVIDUAL BE PRESENT AT THE HEARING IS SATISFIED IF THE HEARING IS CONDUCTED BY VIDEO CONFERENCE.

(4) (I) THE INDIVIDUAL MAY INTRODUCE EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION AT THE HEARING.

(II) THE STATE MAY INTRODUCE EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THE MOTION AT THE HEARING.

~~(5) THE STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL GIVE NOTICE TO EACH VICTIM AND VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS FILED A CRIME VICTIM NOTIFICATION REQUEST FORM UNDER § 11-104 OF THIS ARTICLE OR WHO HAS SUBMITTED A WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE STATE'S ATTORNEY TO BE NOTIFIED OF SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS UNDER § 11-503 OF THIS ARTICLE THAT A MOTION TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF A SENTENCE HAS BEEN FILED UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

~~(6) A VICTIM OR A VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE IS ENTITLED TO AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND AND TESTIFY IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY MARYLAND RULE 4-345. NOTICE OF THE HEARING UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE VICTIM OR THE VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE AS PROVIDED IN §§ 11-104 AND 11-503 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

~~(B)~~ (C) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, AFTER A HEARING UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(A)~~ (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE COURT MAY REDUCE THE DURATION OF A SENTENCE IMPOSED ON AN INDIVIDUAL FOR AN OFFENSE COMMITTED WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL WAS A MINOR IF:

~~(1) THE INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN IMPRISONED FOR AT LEAST 20 YEARS;~~
AND

~~(2)~~ THE COURT DETERMINES THAT:

~~(1)~~ (1) THE INDIVIDUAL IS NOT A DANGER TO THE PUBLIC;
AND AND

~~(2)~~ (2) THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE WILL BE BETTER SERVED BY A REDUCED SENTENCE; AND

~~(H) THE STATE'S ATTORNEY HAS SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDING NOTICE TO VICTIMS OR VICTIMS' REPRESENTATIVES UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~(D)~~ (D) A COURT SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTORS WHEN DETERMINING WHETHER TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF A SENTENCE UNDER THIS SECTION:

(1) THE INDIVIDUAL'S AGE AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENSE;

(2) THE NATURE OF THE OFFENSE AND THE HISTORY AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIVIDUAL;

(3) WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL HAS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLIED WITH THE RULES OF THE INSTITUTION IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN CONFINED;

(4) WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL HAS COMPLETED AN EDUCATIONAL, VOCATIONAL, OR OTHER PROGRAM;

(5) WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL HAS DEMONSTRATED MATURITY, REHABILITATION, AND FITNESS TO REENTER SOCIETY SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY A SENTENCE REDUCTION;

(6) ANY STATEMENT OFFERED BY A VICTIM OR A VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE;

(7) ANY REPORT OF A PHYSICAL, MENTAL, OR BEHAVIORAL EXAMINATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL CONDUCTED BY A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL;

(8) THE INDIVIDUAL'S FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENSE, INCLUDING ~~ANY THE INDIVIDUAL'S~~ ANY HISTORY OF TRAUMA, ABUSE, OR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM;

(9) THE EXTENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S ROLE IN THE OFFENSE AND WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT AN ADULT WAS INVOLVED IN THE OFFENSE;

(10) THE DIMINISHED CULPABILITY OF A JUVENILE AS COMPARED TO AN ADULT, INCLUDING AN INABILITY TO FULLY APPRECIATE RISKS AND CONSEQUENCES; AND

(11) ANY OTHER FACTOR THE COURT DEEMS RELEVANT.

~~(D)~~ (E) (1) THE COURT SHALL ISSUE ITS DECISION TO GRANT OR DENY A MOTION TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF A SENTENCE IN WRITING.

(2) THE DECISION SHALL ADDRESS THE FACTORS LISTED IN SUBSECTION ~~(C)~~ (D) OF THIS SECTION.

~~(E)~~ (F) (1) IF THE COURT DENIES OR GRANTS, IN PART, A MOTION TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF A SENTENCE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT FILE A SECOND MOTION TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF THAT SENTENCE FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS.

(2) IF THE COURT DENIES OR GRANTS, IN PART, A SECOND MOTION TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF A SENTENCE, THE INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT FILE A THIRD MOTION TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF THAT SENTENCE FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS.

(3) WITH REGARD TO ANY SPECIFIC SENTENCE, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT FILE A FOURTH MOTION TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF THE SENTENCE.

~~(F) AS A PRECONDITION TO GRANTING A MOTION TO REDUCE THE DURATION OF A SENTENCE UNDER THIS SECTION, A COURT MAY REQUIRE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL COMPLETE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:~~

~~(1) PRE RELEASE PROGRAMMING;~~

~~(2) ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT;~~

~~(3) A GED PROGRAM OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL OR JOB SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM; OR~~

~~(4) A REENTRY PROGRAM.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Gubernatorial Veto Override, April 10, 2021.