

HOUSE BILL 698

E4, E3

1lr2293
CF 1lr2295

By: **Delegate Crutchfield**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2021

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Model Prisons Study Workgroup**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Model Prisons Study Workgroup; providing
4 for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Workgroup; prohibiting a member of
5 the Workgroup from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
6 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Workgroup to study and make
7 recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Workgroup to report its
8 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
9 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
10 to the Maryland Model Prisons Study Workgroup.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That:

13 (a) There is a Maryland Model Prisons Study Workgroup.

14 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

15 (1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
16 of the Senate;

17 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
18 the House;

19 (3) the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention,
20 Youth, and Victim Services;

21 (4) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
22 Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(5) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;

(6) the Attorney General of Maryland, or the Attorney General's designee;

(7) the Public Defender of Maryland, or the Public Defender's designee; and

(8) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of local detention centers recommended by the Maryland Association of Counties;

(ii) one representative of local law enforcement agencies;

(iii) one representative of the Maryland Parole Commission;

(iv) three successfully rehabilitated individuals who had been committed to State prisons;

(v) three family members of currently incarcerated individuals;

(vi) one current volunteer in prison mediation programs;

(vii) one current volunteer in prison education programs; and

(viii) one representative of the Department of Labor's Correctional Education Program.

(c) The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services shall be the Chair of the Workgroup.

(d) The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

(e) A member of the Workgroup:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Workgroup shall:

(1) using a data-driven approach, develop a plan for fundamental changes to the culture and practices of State prisons, focusing primarily on rehabilitation, restorative justice, and reduction of recidivism for all classifications of incarcerated individuals, especially individuals under the age of 25; and

1 (2) request technical assistance from a social justice advocacy organization
2 such as the Vera Institute of Justice to develop the policy framework for this study.

3 (g) On or before December 1, 2021, the Workgroup shall report its findings and
4 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
5 Government Article, the General Assembly.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
7 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2022, this
8 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
9 further force and effect.