

HOUSE BILL 1605

E2, P2

6lr3614

By: **Delegate Griffith**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Compensation for Individuals Erroneously Convicted – County Cost-Sharing –**
3 **Repeal**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing a requirement that county governments are required to pay
5 a certain percentage of the amount of compensation to individuals erroneously
6 convicted of a crime the individual did not commit; and generally relating to
7 compensation for individuals who have been erroneously convicted.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – State Finance and Procurement
10 Section 10–501(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

16 10–501.

17 (a) (1) On receipt of an order by an administrative law judge granting a
18 petition under subsection (b) of this section, [subject to paragraph (5) of this subsection,]
19 the Board of Public Works shall compensate an individual erroneously convicted,
20 sentenced, and confined under State law for a crime the individual did not commit in an
21 amount equal to the product of the total number of days that the individual was wrongfully
22 confined after the erroneous conviction multiplied by a daily rate of the State’s most recent
23 annual median household income as published in the American Community Survey of the
24 U.S. Census Bureau in the year the order of eligibility is issued under subsection (b) of this
25 section and divided by 365 days to the nearest whole cent.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) In addition to the compensation awarded under paragraph (1) of this
2 subsection, the administrative law judge issuing an order under subsection (b) of this
3 section may direct the appropriate State agency or service provider to provide to the
4 individual free of charge any of the following benefits:

5 (i) a State identification card and any other document necessary for
6 the individual's health or welfare on the individual's release from confinement;

7 (ii) housing accommodations for a period not exceeding 5 years after
8 the date the order of eligibility is issued under subsection (b) of this section;

9 (iii) education and training relevant to life skills, job and vocational
10 training, or financial literacy for a period of time until the individual elects to no longer
11 receive the education and training;

12 (iv) health care and dental care for at least 5 years after the date the
13 order of eligibility is issued under subsection (b) of this section;

14 (v) access to enrollment at and payment of tuition and fees for
15 attending a public senior higher education institution, a regional higher education center,
16 or the Baltimore City Community College for a period of enrollment not exceeding 8 years;
17 and

18 (vi) reimbursement for court fines, fees, and restitution paid by the
19 individual for the crime for which the individual was erroneously convicted, sentenced, and
20 confined.

21 (3) (i) If an individual previously received a monetary award from a
22 civil suit or entered into a settlement agreement with the State or a political subdivision of
23 the State for an erroneous conviction, sentence, or confinement, the amount owed to the
24 individual under this subsection shall be reduced by the amount of the monetary award or
25 settlement that was paid to the individual less any amount paid for attorney's fees and
26 costs for litigating the award or settlement.

27 (ii) 1. If, after receiving compensation under this subsection, an
28 individual receives a monetary award from a civil suit or enters into a settlement
29 agreement with the State or a political subdivision of the State for an erroneous conviction,
30 sentence, or confinement, the individual shall reimburse the State the amount of money
31 paid under this section less any amount paid for attorney's fees and costs for litigating the
32 award or settlement.

33 2. Reimbursement required under subparagraph 1 of this
34 subparagraph may not exceed the amount of the monetary award the individual received
35 in the civil suit or settlement agreement.

1 3. The State may obtain a lien against the monetary award
2 from a civil suit or settlement agreement to satisfy an obligation under subsubparagraph 1
3 of this subparagraph.

4 (4) If an individual eligible for compensation and benefits under this
5 subsection is deceased, the individual's estate has standing to be compensated under this
6 subsection.

7 [(5) (i) Beginning in fiscal year 2026, the county government in the
8 county in which the conviction of an individual occurred shall pay to the State 50% of the
9 amount of compensation awarded to the individual under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

10 (ii) The payment shall be remitted annually to the Comptroller by
11 June 30 equal to 100% of the county's share of costs for that fiscal year.

12 (iii) On October 1, December 1, March 1, and June 1 of each fiscal
13 year, the Board of Public Works shall notify the Comptroller and each county of the county's
14 share of each erroneous conviction award during the fiscal year.

15 (iv) The Comptroller may withhold a portion of a local income tax
16 distribution of a county that fails to make timely payment in accordance with this section.]

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2026.