Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 689 (Senator McKay, *et al.*)
Judicial Proceedings Judiciary

Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services - Requirement Alterations and Extension of Report Deadline (Bri's Law)

This bill expands the duties of the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services to include studying programs and services to prevent recidivism by individuals in the State after release from incarceration. In addition, the bill extends the deadline for the submission of the task force's required report from October 31, 2026, to December 31, 2026. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) – which staffs the task force – can handle the bill's changes with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Minimal or none.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapters 936 and 937 of 2024 established the Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services, staffed by DPSCS. The task force must (1) identify and assess the reentry services that exist in the State; (2) identify gaps in reentry services; (3) assess the markers of successful reentry; (4) ensure that the recommendations of the task force equally consider returning citizens regardless of gender; (5) develop a plan to establish a Division of Returning Citizens within DPSCS

for specified purposes; and (6) develop a plan to expand specified services for individuals after release from incarceration. Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses, as specified.

Chapters 112 and 113 of 2025 extended the termination date of the task force to June 30, 2027, and the deadline for submission of the task force's required report to October 31, 2026.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1347 (Delegate Baker, *et al.*) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 20, 2026
jg/lgc Third Reader - March 26, 2026
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 26, 2026

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