

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 689

(Senator McKay)

Judicial Proceedings

Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and Requirements (Bri's Law)

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study Postrelease Services and Requirements. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) must provide staff for the task force. The task force must study (1) each type of release from incarceration in the State and (2) for each type of release, postrelease programs and requirements designed to prevent individuals released from incarceration from recidivating. The task force must also make recommendations for improving postrelease programming and requirements based on its findings. Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses, as specified. By July 1, 2027, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026, and terminates June 30, 2028.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for DPSCS are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Minimal or none.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Release from Division of Correction

The Commissioner of Correction must adopt regulations (1) establishing a release plan for incarcerated individuals upon release from confinement in a State correctional facility to help identify resources to assist incarcerated individuals following release, including the provision of transportation from the facility for an incarcerated individual upon release and (2) implementing provisions concerning issuance of an identification card to incarcerated individuals on release from confinement in a State correctional facility.

Current regulations specify that, when feasible, a parole release plan must be completed before a parole hearing. A release plan must include the name of the parolee's employer or evidence of other legitimate means of financial support, the location at which the parolee will reside, and the nature of any community services necessary to meet the special needs of the parolee.

Task Force on the Creation of a Division of Returning Citizens and Expanded Reentry Services

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.

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
caw/lgc

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