

Maryland Prison Bills Update

February 14, 2024

Friends:

We are currently focusing on the members of these two committees:

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Committees/Details?cmte=jpr>

House Judiciary Committee:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Committees/Details?cmte=jud>

Note: (SB=Senate Bill; HB=House Bill)

Three bills presently before these committees that are especially important for long-serving inmates address ***Sentence Reconsideration***. Each bill allows for a JUDGE to review many factors, hearing from witnesses both pro and con, to consider shortening an inmate's sentence.

(Two additional bills: the Geriatric and Medical Parole Bill (SB-128/HB-118) and Correctional Ombudsman Bill (SB-134/HB-297) are also important but might have an easier road to passage.)

The sentence reconsideration bills below seem to be more at risk presently, and we must remind legislators that these three bills are critical to long-serving inmates:

- 1) **SB 318/HB 317, *Motion for Reduction of Sentence***, would allow a STATE'S ATTORNEY to initiate a reconsideration of sentence hearing AT ANY TIME during the incarceration.
- 2) **SB 123/HB 724, *Petition to Reduce Sentence***, would allow the inmate who has SERVED AT LEAST 20 YEARS to request a reconsideration of sentence hearing, OR for a STATE'S ATTORNEY to initiate a reconsideration AT ANY TIME during the incarceration.
- 3) **SB 389/No HB at present, *Incarcerated Seniors – Motion to Reduce the Duration of a Sentence***, would allow for an inmate who has SERVED AT LEAST 20 YEARS, and who is AGE 60 OR OLDER to request a reconsideration of sentence hearing.

The Committees considering these bills may vote to advance all or none of these bills to the floor of the full legislature. **They may also consider *combining two or all three bills in some fashion into a single "Sentence Reconsideration" bill***. Any of these options would be fine. ***It is important, though, that some version of SENTENCE RECONSIDERATION legislation advances out of these two committees.***

The Committee Chairs (Sen. Smith and Del. Clippinger) have the power to decide whether or not to hold a vote on a particular bill. If so, the committee members then vote to advance any SENTENCE RECONSIDERATION bill out of committee onto the floor of the legislature.

The following page contains a sample message that you can follow when contacting legislators. Following the sample message are legislators who you should contact, sorted by counties / legislative districts.

If uncertain of the district you reside, the MD General Assembly website has an excellent locator – see

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/members/district>

Maryland Prison Bills Update

February 14, 2024

Please call or email the legislators listed below, particularly those in your home county or home district. Ask concerned friends and family in other districts to call the relevant legislators from their district.

Examples of what to say when calling a legislator:

"My name is _____ and I live in _____ County."

"I am calling Delegate/Senator _____ to encourage his/her favorable vote for bills that will *allow a judicial review of a prison sentence* for persons who have already served long incarcerations in Maryland. The bills currently under consideration in your committee are _____"
(When calling a Delegate, name HB-317 and HB-724) (For Senators, name SB-318, SB-123, and SB-369).

"None of these bills is a '*get of jail free*' card. All bills require a *formal hearing before a judge* who will consider many factors in deciding whether to reduce the sentence and will only do so if it is the interest of justice, and not a risk to public safety."

"There is no need to keep these older persons incarcerated who have aged out of crime and who have shown remorse for their actions, have shown good character, and have taken advantage of education and rehabilitation programs while in prison. "

(For friends, family of an inmate, add something particular about that person.)

"Our prisons are over-crowded and under-staffed."

"The cost to Maryland taxpayers for keeping these older inmates is prohibitive, between \$50,000 - \$70,000 per year per inmate. Incarceration of older inmates is costly, with ***no gain in public safety.***"

"In advance, thank you for your support of these bills."

Members of House Judiciary and Senate Judicial Proceedings committees:

(Note that several legislators have districts that overlap counties. An asterisk (*) indicates sponsorship of one of the relevant bills listed above. Refer to their name at end of listings.)

Anne Arundel County legislators

Del. J. Sandy Bartlett*, V. CHAIR, Dst 32	410-841-3370	sandy.bartlett@house.state.md.us
Delegate Rachel Munoz, District 31	410-841-3510	rachel.munoz@house.state.md.us
Delegate Stuart M. Schmidt, Dst33B	410-841-3110	stuart.schmidt@house.state.md.us
Delegate Gary Simmons*, District 12B	410-841-3581	gary.simmons@house.state.md.us

Baltimore City legislators

Senator Jill Carter*, District 41	410-841-3697	jill.carter@senate.state.md.us
Delegate Luke Clippinger, CHAIR, Dst 46	410-841-3488	luke.clippinger@house.state.md.us
Delegate Frank Conaway, District 40	410-841-3189	frank.conaway@house.state.md.us
Delegate Elizabeth Embry, District 43A	410-841-3638	elizabeth.embry@house.state.md.us

Maryland Prison Bills Update

February 14, 2024

Baltimore County legislators

Senator Chris West*, District 42	410-841-3648	chris.west@senate.state.md.us
Senator Charles Sydnor, District 44	410-841-3612	charles.sydnor@senate.state.md.us
Delegate Jon Cardin, District 11B	410-841.3054	jon.cardin@house.state.md.us
Delegate Robin Grammer, District 6	410-841-3298	Robin.Grammer@house.state.md.us
Delegate Cheryl Pasteur*, District 11A	410-841-3448	cheryl.pasteur@house.state.md.us
Delegate N. Scott Phillips, District 10	410-841-3358	n.scott.phillips@house.state.md.us
Not on Sen Jud Proc Comm, but a co-sponsor of SB-389 – Thank her for her effort:		
Sen. Shelly Hettleman, Distr 11	410-841-3131	shelly.hettleman@senate.state.md.us

Carroll County legislators

Senator Chris West*, District 42	410-841-3648	chris.west@senate.state.md.us
Delegate Christopher Eric Bouchet, Dst5	410-841-3200	christopher.bouchet@house.state.md.us
Delegate Chris Tomlinson, District 5	410-841-3359	chris.tomlinson@house.state.md.us

Dorchester and Wicomico County legislators

Sheree Sample-Hughes, District 37A	410-841-3427	Sheree.Sample.Hughes@house.state.md.us
------------------------------------	--------------	--

Frederick County legislators

Senator William Folden, District 4	410-841-3704	william.folden@senate.state.md.us
Delegate Christopher Eric Bouchet, Dst5	410-841-3200	christopher.bouchet@house.state.md.us
Delegate Chris Tomlinson, District 5	410-841-3359	chris.tomlinson@house.state.md.us
Delegate Karen Simpson, District 3	410-841-3436	karen.simpson@house.state.md.us
Delegate William Valentine, District 2A	410-841-3636	william.valentine@house.state.md.us

Garrett and Allegany County legislators

Senator Mike McKay, District 1	410-841-3565	mike.mckay@senate.state.md.us
--------------------------------	--------------	--

Harford County legislators

Senator Mary Dulany James, District 34	410-841-3158	marydulany.james@senate.state.md.us
Delegate Lauren Arian, District 7B	410-841-3334	lauren.arikan@house.state.md.us

Montgomery County legislators

Senator Will Smith, CHAIR, Dstr 20	410-841-3634	will.smith@senate.state.md.us
Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher, V. CHR, Dstr 18	410-841-3137	jeff.waldstreicher@senate.state.md.us
Senator Ariana Kelly*, District 16	410-841-3124	ariana.kelly@senate.state.md.us
Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield*, Dstr 19	410-841-3485	charlotte.crutchfield@house.state.md.us
Delegate Aaron Kaufman, District 18	410-841-3314	aaron.kaufman@house.state.md.us
Delegate David Moon, District 20	410-841-3474	David.Moon@house.state.md.us

Prince Georges County legislators

Senator Nick Charles, District 25	410-841-3127	nick.charles@house.state.md.us
Senator Anthony Muse, District 26	410-841-3092	anthony.muse@house.state.md.us
Delegate Kent Roberson, District 25	410-841-3557	kent.roberson@house.state.md.us

Maryland Prison Bills Update

February 14, 2024

Delegate Kym Taylor*, District 23	410-841-3331	kym.taylor@house.state.md.us
Delegate Karen Toles, District 25	410-841-3524	karen.toles@house.state.md.us
Delegate Nicole Williams*, District 22	410-841-3058	nicole.williams@house.state.md.us

Somerset, Worcester, Wicomico County legislators

(Sen Carozza is not on Sen Judic Proc Comm, but has co-sponsored SB-389 – Thank her for her efforts!

Sen. Mary Beth Carozza, District 38	410-841-3006	mary.beth.carozza@senate.state.md.us
-------------------------------------	--------------	--

Washington County legislators

Senator Mike McKay, District 1	410-841-3565	mike.mckay@senate.state.md.us
Delegate William Valentine, District 2A	410-841-3636	william.valentine@house.state.md.us

* **Sponsors and co-sponsors:** Thank them for their sponsorship, and encourage them to continue to advocate for legislation to allow reconsideration of sentences.

Sen Carter: SB-123

Del Crutchfield: HB-724

Sen Kelly: SB-389

Del Pasteur: HB-724

Del Phillips: HB-724

Del Taylor: HB-724

Del Simmons: HB-724

Sen West: SB-318, SB-389

Del Williams: HB-317