



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chairman and
Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Chief David Morris, Co-Chair, MCPA, Joint Legislative Committee
Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 6, 2020

RE: **HB 1480 – Correctional Services - Elder Parole**

POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) OPPOSE HB 1480. This bill authorizes the release of an “elder inmate” on parole at any time during the term of the inmate’s sentence, without regard to the eligibility standards for parole under current law.

Under current sentencing guidelines, a person serving a term of confinement eligible for parole will be considered at the appropriate time. The considerations go before the Maryland Parole Commission, which is charged with determining on a case-by-case basis whether inmates serving sentences of six months or more in state or local facilities are suitable for release into the community under certain conditions or supervision by the Division of Parole and Probation. Further medical parole was established several years for inmates who due to medical reasons pose no to public safety. If the intent of this legislation is to release inmates in these circumstances, a process is already in place.

HB 1480 upends this process and allows an inmate of at least 60 years old to file a request for parole on their own or through an attorney at any time during their sentence. Current procedures provide an avenue for individuals to receive a reduced sentence or be approved for parole. This process has proper checks and balances and has proved to be effective. Should modifications need to be made, they should be within the confines of the existing system instead of a new process being established.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA OPPOSE HB 1480 and urge an UNFAVORABLE Committee report.