

Bill No: HB 131

Title: **Correctional Services – Step–Down Programs – Cause of Action**

Committee: Judiciary

Hearing Date: January 27, 2021

Position: SUPPORT

Incarcerated persons may have difficulty functioning on their own, particularly if they do not have a law-abiding support system waiting for them on the outside.

Please support [HB 131](#) that mandates the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to provide transitional services to incarcerated people in six months prior to their release. The bill requires the DPSCS to introduce a “step down” program to those incarcerated in restrictive housing as well as involving a coordinated multidisciplinary treatment team approach.

Over the last five years, the Department releases anywhere from 250 to 300 people directly to the community from restrictive housing without any form of step-down transition. This practice poses a threat to public safety and undermines the chances of incarcerated people to reenter the community successfully. After individuals pay their debt to society, they should not be punished for the rest of their lives by the inability to thrive.

*Sincerely,
Emily C Blank, Brentwood, MD*