



**House Judiciary Committee
March 313, 2021**

Senate Bill 525

**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and State Board of
Elections- Centralized Booking Facility - Ballot Drop Box
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 525. NCADD-Maryland has long advocated for policies that help people involved with the criminal justice system avoid some of the collateral damage caused by our drug policies. The disproportionate impact of our society's drug policies on communities of color has led to the same voter disenfranchisement inequities.

SB 525 recognizes not all people in jail are guilty of any crime. This bill will ensure that people who are incarcerated who are eligible to vote know they retain this constitutional right. Moreover, the bill will ensure that people who have the right to vote have the opportunity to register and cast their ballots. People who are in detention, awaiting trial, retain their voting rights. To not provide them the opportunity to exercise that right is an unwarranted punishment.

Providing people in pre-trial detention the opportunity to exercise their right to vote is a step to address the historic racial inequities in our voting laws.

We urge your support of Senate Bill 525.

The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.