

**Sydnor\_SB 293 Testimony Fav-JPR.pdf**

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Position: FAV

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Judicial Proceedings Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

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Children, Youth, and Families

*Senate Chair*  
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Baltimore County Senate Delegation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony Regarding SB 293**  
**Corrections – Incarcerated Individuals**  
**Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**February 15, 2023**

Good afternoon Chair Smith, and Committee Members,

Senate Bill 293 is a modest yet important bill which alters the term “inmate” to “incarcerated individual” in the Maryland Corrections Article. While a seemingly semantic change, the term inmate has been shown to have negative effects on an individual, who will likely reenter society after serving his or her time incarcerated, which makes this bill an important addition to Maryland Law.

Senate Bill 293 is modeled on a New York State law passed during the summer of 2022. Similar to New York’s law, SB 293 amends a term in Maryland law that is outdated and/or offensive. The Maryland General Assembly has already adopted the terminology “incarcerated individual” in writing its legislation. This follows on the heels of movements to correct and update phrases such as “mentally retarded,” (modern: developmentally disabled) and anything with “man” at the end that is gender polarizing (i.e.: postman and fireman with postal worker and fire fighter).

For these reasons, I ask you to vote favorably in support of SB 293.

# **SB 293 - Corrections - Incarcerated Individuals.pd**

Uploaded by: Jennifer Beskid

Position: INFO



## Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

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**BILL: SENATE BILL 293**

**POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

**EXPLANATION:** SB 293 changes the term “inmate” to “incarcerated individual”. The bill requires the publishers of the Annotated Code of Maryland to correct all references to “inmate” to “incarcerated individual” throughout the Code.

#### **COMMENTS:**

The Department operates the Division of Correction (DOC), the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services (DPDS), and the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP).

- DOC operates 13 State correctional facilities housing offenders sentenced to periods of incarceration for 18 months and longer.
- DPDS operates the Baltimore City Pretrial Complex which houses pretrial detainees and incarcerated individuals sentenced to incarceration for periods of 18 months and less.
- DPP supervises parolees, probationers and those on mandatory release from correctional facilities.

The Department has already transitioned from using the term “inmate” to use of “incarcerated individual” in an attempt to reduce the stigma against incarcerated individuals.

Replacing this dehumanizing term and changing the vernacular of the Department is another step toward demonstrating the Department’s commitment and focus on an incarcerated individual’s successful reentry to the community.

**CONCLUSION:** The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as it deliberates on Senate Bill 293.