

Written Testimony for SB 0771/ HB 1263: Criminal Procedure – Petition to Modify or Reduce Sentence 3 (Maryland Second Look Act)

Dear Judicial Proceedings Committee Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and all other esteemed Committee Members:

I implore all of you to think about what this bill means to criminals, especially hardened criminals and those charged with heinous crimes, such as rape, murder, etc. that carry long sentences, sometimes LIFE-long sentences without a chance for parole. This bill means that those criminals only have to serve a portion of their sentence, 20 - 25 years, and not their entire criminal sentence, before they are “eligible” to file a Motion to petition the court to modify or reduce their sentence, “...regardless of whether the person filed a timely motion for reconsideration...” or “whether a prior motion for reconsideration was denied by the court...” So, in other words, as long as a criminal “qualifies”, any and all criminals can file for their sentence to be reduced. What happened to serving the required sentence as decided by the judge assigned to the case? What happened to “don’t do the crime, if you’re not willing to do the time!” This is unimaginable!! This does not serve justice to the victim(s) of the crime. Where are the victim(s)’ rights in this new equation? It actually seems that the criminals have more rights than the victims of the crimes!!

Please vote “Unfavorable” in opposition to this Maryland Second Look Act! It is wrong to release criminals before their rightful sentence is served entirely!!

Thank you for your time and attention!

Trudy Tibbals
A very concerned mother and Maryland resident