



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of Government and Legislative Affairs

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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.