

**SB260\_DPSCS\_SUPPORT.pdf**

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Position: FAV



**Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
Office of the Secretary**

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**BILL: SENATE BILL 260**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

**EXPLANATION:** This Departmental bill will allow an individual under the supervision of the Division of Parole and Probation to accrue Earned Compliance Credits without being current on the payment of the supervision fee.

**COMMENTS:**

- The Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) supervises individuals within the community who have been placed on supervised probation, have been paroled by the Maryland Parole Commission, or were placed on mandatory supervision upon release from incarceration.
- An individual under supervision may be awarded Earned Compliance Credits, which is a 20-day reduction from the period of active supervision of the supervised individual for every month that a supervised individual is in compliance with conditions and goals of the individual's supervision, including being current on court ordered payments, fines and fees.
- Part of the compliance is being current on the monthly supervision fee that is collected by DPP from all individuals under supervision.
- Many individuals are unable to make the full supervision fee each month, due to a variety of reasons, including employment issues, as well as financial burdens as many individuals must pay court ordered restitution and fees first.
- So often, individuals are compliant with all aspects of supervision, except for being current with the supervision fee, making them ineligible to earn ECCs.
- The failure to pay the supervision fees during the course of supervision should not penalize the individual under supervision in earning ECC credits.

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- HB 123 will permit the DPP to provide ECC credits to individuals who are under supervision and who may not have the means to pay the supervision fees; and to permit abatement of supervision for individuals doing well under supervision and meeting the conditions of supervision.
- By removing the requirement that an individual be compliant with the payment of supervision fees removes one financial barrier to earning ECCs, and will overall diminish the financial impact of supervision. Failure to pay

**CONCLUSION:** For these reasons, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully asks this Committee to vote **FAVORABLY** on House Bill 123.