



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Thursday, February 15, 2024

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 486: Maryland Correctional Enterprises -
Modifications**

Good afternoon Chair Smith and the esteemed members of the Judicial Proceedings committee,

I am writing today to express my strong support for Senate Bill 486, which calls for a thorough examination of Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) operations and its comparison with private enterprises. This bill is a critical step towards ensuring efficiency, transparency, and cost-effectiveness in the provision of goods and services within our correctional system.

The proposed legislation mandates the MCE Management Council to conduct comprehensive research to assess various aspects concerning the goods and services provided by MCE. Specifically, the bill requires an evaluation of the number of private entities offering similar goods and services, prevailing market prices, a comparative analysis of costs between MCE and private enterprises, and an examination of potential benefits associated with soliciting private enterprises.

Such a thorough review is essential for several reasons. Firstly, it allows for a transparent comparison between MCE and private entities, enabling policymakers to make informed decisions based on empirical data rather than assumptions. Secondly, it ensures accountability within MCE by scrutinizing its operations and cost structures against private market alternatives. Thirdly, it opens avenues for potential cost savings and operational efficiencies by leveraging competitive forces present in the private sector.

By mandating the report to be submitted to the General Assembly by July 1, 2026, this bill underscores the urgency and commitment of the state legislature towards improving correctional enterprise practices. Additionally, the provision for termination by September 30, 2026, ensures that this review process is time-bound, thereby facilitating timely action based on the findings.

In conclusion, Senate Bill 486 represents a commendable effort towards enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of Maryland's correctional enterprises. By conducting a thorough assessment and comparison with private sector alternatives, this bill lays the foundation for informed decision-making, cost savings, and improved outcomes within our correctional system. I urge the esteemed members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to support this vital piece of legislation for the betterment of our state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes", is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District – MD