



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

Testimony in Support of HB485 – St. Mary's County – Corrections

March 17, 2025

Chair Smith and Members of the Esteemed Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am here today to present House Bill 485. This delegation bill would better empower the St. Mary's County Sheriff and the Courts to order programs which serve as alternatives to prison sentences for non-violent offenders in the county.

The Day Reporting program in St. Mary's County was introduced three years ago with federal grant funding and has proven successful in enhancing the existing Home Detention Program. This program gives offenders access to job training, mental health and substance abuse treatment, parenting, and anger management courses, among others.

This legislation modifies language regarding the existing Home Detention Program and In-Patient Treatment Program to authorize the courts to order participation pre-trial. This bill grants additional oversight and enforcement authority by mandating that participation in these programs require financial contribution from the individual, ensuring accountability.

This bill improves and strengthens these existing, proven, and successful programs and enhances the ability of the courts to order rehabilitation rather than further punish those stuck in cycles of poverty or addiction. I respectfully request your favorable report on House Bill 485.