

# SENATE BILL 684

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CF HB 801

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By: **Senators Washington, Waldstreicher, Beidle, Benson, Carter, Ellis, Feldman, Griffith, Guzzone, Hayes, Jennings, King, Kramer, Lee, Patterson, Reilly, Rosapepe, Smith, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Correctional Services – Prerelease Unit for Women – Facilities and Services**  
3 **(Gender–Responsive Prerelease Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Commissioner of the Division of Correction to provide a  
5 certain prerelease facility for female inmates; requiring the Commissioner to provide  
6 certain prerelease services for certain female inmates; establishing the content for  
7 certain services provided by the Commissioner; defining certain terms; making  
8 stylistic changes; and generally relating to prerelease services for female inmates.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Correctional Services  
11 Section 3–303  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Correctional Services**

17 3–303.

18 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
19 **INDICATED.**

20 **(2) “EVIDENCE–BASED PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES” HAS THE**  
21 **MEANING STATED IN § 6–119 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) "INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 6-119 OF THIS ARTICLE.

[(a)] (B) The Commissioner shall:

(1) [develop comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services] PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATIVE PRERELEASE FACILITY FOR ELIGIBLE FEMALE INMATES THAT MATCHES SECURITY LEVEL ON A VALIDATED GENDER-RESPONSIVE RISK MEASURE; and

(2) make [these] EVIDENCE-BASED AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE services available to FEMALE inmates [of a] AT THE prerelease [unit for women] FACILITY.

[(b)] (C) The comprehensive rehabilitative prerelease services shall UTILIZE EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES TO:

(1) assist FEMALE inmates in improving their education, upgrading vocational skills, and obtaining suitable employment THROUGH CLASSES TO EARN INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE CREDITS, WORKFORCE TRAINING, AND JOB PLACEMENT;

(2) provide FEMALE inmates with the opportunity to strengthen family and community relationships through extended family leave, PARENTING WORKSHOPS, FAMILY REUNIFICATION ASSISTANCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY MEMBERS TO VISIT FEMALE INMATES BEFORE RELEASE;

(3) [assist inmates in improving their physical and mental health and reducing any tendency to abuse alcohol or drugs] PROVIDE INTEGRATIVE AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE SERVICES, INCLUDING MEDICAL TREATMENT, TRAUMA-INFORMED COUNSELING, MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT, AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT TO ADDRESS OVERALL HEALTH AND TRAUMA NEEDS AND HELP FEMALE INMATES ACHIEVE STABLE AND PRODUCTIVE ROLES IN SOCIETY; and

[(4) provide appropriate counseling, instruction, supervision, and medical and psychological treatment as necessary to help inmates achieve stable and productive roles in society.]

(4) DEVELOP INDIVIDUALIZED AND COMPREHENSIVE REENTRY PLANS INVOLVING COMMUNITY PROVIDER PARTNERSHIPS FOR FEMALE INMATES TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO OBTAINING HOUSING, JOBS, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, CHILDCARE AND CHILD WELFARE, TRANSPORTATION, LEGAL ADVOCACY, CASE

1    **MANAGEMENT, AND OTHER NEEDS.**

2            SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
3    October 1, 2020.