

# HOUSE BILL 622

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By: **Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request – Departmental – Public Safety and Correctional Services)**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Correctional Services – Correctional Officers – Minimum Age Requirement**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the minimum age requirement for employment as a  
4 correctional officer in any unit of the Division of Correction, any unit of the Division  
5 of Pretrial Detention and Services, or the Patuxent Institution within the  
6 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; requiring the Secretary of  
7 Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt certain regulations; and generally  
8 relating to correctional officers.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Correctional Services  
11 Section 2–109  
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 2–109.

18 (a) The Secretary shall adopt regulations for the office of the Secretary.

19 (b) (1) The Secretary shall review regulations proposed by a unit in the  
20 Department.

21 (2) The Secretary may approve, disapprove, or revise regulations proposed  
22 by a unit in the Department.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary shall adopt regulations to govern the policies and management of correctional facilities in the Department in accordance with Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to a guideline pertaining to the routine internal management of correctional facilities in the Division of Correction.

(3) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the Secretary shall adopt regulations that provide for a requirement that:

1. a correctional officer hired on or after October 1, [2007] **2020**, for employment in any unit of the Division of Correction shall be at least [21] **19** years old; and

2. a correctional officer hired on or after October 1, [2008] **2020**, for employment in any unit of the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services or the Patuxent Institution shall be at least [21] **19** years old.

(ii) The regulations adopted under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph shall exempt any honorably discharged veteran or reserve member of the United States armed forces from the minimum age requirement.

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