



## House Bill 1275

### *Correctional Services – Inmate Release (Suzanne Jones Act)*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judiciary Committee

Date: March 6, 2020

From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1275 as it establishes procedures to ensure that individuals released from state correctional facilities are returned home upon release.

Currently, release plans are developed and used to assist inmates and identify resources, including transportation from the correctional facility, to help them upon release from a state correctional facility. Parole release plans must include the terms for parole as well as the address where the parolee will reside. However, some individuals fall through the cracks. The bill aims to address the problem of when individuals are released from state facilities but have not identified or committed to an intended area of residence. Consequently, these individuals end up being concentrated in the communities surrounding the state facilities.

HB 1275 would require the Division of Corrections (DOC) to transfer an inmate upon release from a state correctional facility to the jurisdiction in which they lived prior to incarceration. It also requires the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) to provide any required probation, parole, or mandatory supervision of an inmate in the jurisdiction where the inmate lived prior to incarceration. The DOC and DPP must consult with the inmates ID, correctional intake records, or last known residence according to the Decennial census to properly identify where the inmate lived prior to incarceration.

The bill creates a common sense process for ensuring individuals are returned to their home jurisdictions upon release from a state correctional facility. Accordingly, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1275.