



Senate Bill 433

Correctional Services – Special Requirements for Elderly, Chronically Ill, and Terminally Ill Inmates

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: February 24, 2016

From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 433 as it sets unachievable requirements on local jails.

SB 433 sets standards for the Maryland Parole Commission to grant compassionate release to inmates that are over 64 and have served at least 15 years of their sentence. It also requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to designate separate housing facilities for elderly, chronically ill, and terminally ill inmates. These provisions only apply to state prisons as local jails generally only hold individuals sentenced to 18 months or less.

The bill requires that local correctional facilities accommodate the special needs of elderly, chronically ill, and terminally ill inmates in accordance with standards, guidelines, and recommendations issued or endorsed by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). NIC does not have official standards, guidelines, or recommendations that dictate accommodation standards for these special populations within correctional facilities.

The requirements of this bill are unattainable for local correctional facilities. For these reasons MACo requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report on SB 433.