

MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



MAJR Virtual 2021 Lobby Days

With COVID-distancing, Marylanders aren't permitted to come in person to our Capitol to meet and speak with our legislators. But MAJR can offer the next-best-thing with email, phone calls and Zoom meetings!

MAJR workgroup members will offer Zoom meetings to prepare you for our virtual Lobby Days!

On Monday, 2/15/21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., we'll offer updates on MAJR priority bills, suggest "talking points" to urge their support by legislators and staff, and answer your personal questions. You can call your legislators's offices the same afternoon!

- Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tzMude-qrDloG9FHD3Q7T8LB-lwZUQP4MQDy> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

On Sunday evening, 2/21/21, 7 to 8:30 p.m., we will offer updates, "talking points," answer questions -- and we may offer help to set up Zoom appointments with your legislator for the coming week!

- Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kfuqpqDsuGtl0XmJFBOmMqRDRI3TzDSU> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Learn about the upcoming hearings.

During the week of 2/15, MAJR priority bills will have important committee hearings. These include:

Monday, 2/15, 1:30pm (House Judiciary). [HB1035](#) would provide for independent investigation and, if appropriate, prosecution when police officers shoot or otherwise cause violent deaths to Marylanders. This would replace the current system where local State's Attorneys must prosecute the same officers who work with them every day.

Tuesday, 2/16, 1:30 pm (House Judiciary). [HB0032](#) would legalize marijuana use for adults in Maryland, as well as providing safe regulations comparable to those for liquor sales, and tax revenue dedicate to health, safety, education and the general fund. Alcohol prohibition's repeal resulted in huge drops in crime and law enforcement costs; this bill will bring the same needed changes for marijuana -- scientifically found less dangerous than alcohol.

Wednesday, 2/17, 1:00pm (Senate Judicial Proceedings-JPR). [SB0494](#), the *Juvenile Restoration Act*, is designed to abolish the sentence of *Juvenile Life Without Parole* and permit a person who was convicted of a crime committed while the person was a minor to file a motion for a sentence reduction. This bill supports the belief that no child is beyond the hope of redemption. We join [The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth](#) and other advocates in support of this bill.

During the week of 2/22, MAJR priority bills will have important committee hearings. These include:

Tuesday, 2/23, 1:00 p.m., (Senate JPR). [SB0742](#) will require a study of other states' successful *Model Prison* programs that offer education, structure, peer mentoring, and other best practices to drastically improve outcomes in reduction of prison violence and recidivism. Maryland needs to change the basic culture of its prisons to be restorative, rather than punitive!

Tuesday, 2/23, 1:00 p.m. (House Judiciary). Various expungement bills will be considered. Maryland currently offers very limited and burdensome procedures to remove public records, despite ex-offenders having completed their sentences and established lengthy good behavior. [HB0238](#) and [HB0882](#) offer useful steps towards a fresh start for Marylanders who have rehabilitated themselves.

Thursday, 2/25, 1:00 p.m. (Senate JPR), [SB0671](#) permits police the option to issue citations, instead of arrest, for nonviolent misdemeanors such as simple drug possession, when appropriate. Supported by the Maryland State's Attorney's Association and Maryland Chiefs and Sheriffs, this bill would reduce pretrial detention population, costs, COVID-19 risk, and add more time and efficiency for police.

Muster Action Alerts

Thanks for your participation in a new way to lobby our State legislators. Here's a brief look at how you have helped.

| Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform: Muster Action Alerts | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----|
| 2/7/2021 | | | | | | | | | |
| Campaign | Date | Committee | Eligible Contacts | Emails Opened | Percent Opened | Legislators Contacted | Committee Members | New Signups | |
| Veto Override 1: Womens' Pre-release, Kirwan Blueprint, Automatic Expungement | HB801/SB684, HB1300/SB1000, HB1336/SB589 | 1/20/2021 | House & Senate | 643 | 291 | 45.3 | 348 | 188 | 36 |
| Veto Override 2: Womens' Pre-release, Kirwan Blueprint | HB801/SB684, HB1300/SB1000 | 2/4/2021 | House & Senate | 728 | 366 | 50.3 | 358 | 188 | 22 |
| Citations | HB0445 | 1/31/2021 | Judiciary | 302 | 159 | 52.6 | 38 | 21 | 5 |
| Felony Murder & Prison Education | SB0395, SB0397 | 2/6/2021 | JPR | 218 | 103 | 47.2 | 20 | 11 | 1 |
| Collateral Consequences | SB0039 | 2/6/2021 | Education | 269 | 97 | 36.1 | 24 | 11 | 2 |
| Crisis Response Teams | SB0286 | 2/6/2021 | Finance | 101 | 35 | 34.7 | 13 | 11 | 0 |
| Totals: | | | | | | | 801 | 430 | 66 |
| Eligible Contact: Constituent of a committee member. | | | | | | | | | |

In the last two weeks you have helped by contacting over 400 legislators, sending over 800 emails in support of 11 bills! With many other Marylanders we were able to persuade the House of Delegates to override the Governor's veto of the Kirwan Blueprint! For the others, we don't know the outcome yet, but your help will make a difference.

Haven't been asked to participate?

These action alerts often target members of a specific committee. When this is the case, only constituents of members of that committee are asked to participate. Also, it is possible you have not been on the list for two reasons: either we don't have your street address and cannot determine whose district you reside in; or (2) you have not participated in MAJR's email campaigns in the past.

In any case, make sure that we have your address by filling out the "Get Involved: Individuals" form: <https://www.ma4jr.org/individuals/>

With your help MAJR will continue to tell our legislators how we stand.

MAJR is a nonpartisan association of over fifty community organizations and churches with members in every part of the state, formed to support justice reinvestment. Individual supporters include judges, attorneys, corrections professionals, as well as returning citizens, victims, and service providers.

Visit: <http://www.ma4jr.org>
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 Twitter: [@ma4jreform](https://twitter.com/ma4jreform)



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