

MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



Please urge the Governor to approve these “Smart-On-Crime” bills!

Maryland General Assembly in 2022 has passed and, so far, has sent to the Governor’s desk a number of “smart-on-crime” bills that can reduce the amount of incarceration and costs while improving outcomes and public safety. Here are three MAJR priority bills that we hope the Governor will approve and not veto:

1. **HB0459/SB0691-Juvenile Justice Reform** - This bill restricts juvenile court’s jurisdiction to the most serious cases for children at age 13, limits the duration of juvenile probation to three years for the most serious cases, and creates a Commission to study best and most cost-effective, evidence-based practices for juvenile offenders’ diversion and rehabilitation.
2. **SB0053 - Child Interrogation Protection** - This bill requires that police contact parents (or guardians) about a child’s arrest and provides that an attorney also should advise the child of his or her rights in understandable language. Without such protections, studies show children give false confessions at a rate 3x higher than adults.
3. **HB 1 / HB0837 - Cannabis Legalization** - Like America’s long-repealed prohibition of alcohol, marijuana criminalization has resulted in widespread harm from tainted products, incarceration (3x the rate for blacks compared to whites), gang-controlled sales, and more. HB 1 would put legalization on the election ballot. HB 837 would make sure that legalized cannabis was regulated safely, kept away from juveniles, taxed to support public services, and produced income for black as well as white businesses.

The Governor should be reminded that simply increasing prison time doesn’t fix crime. Prevention and treatment, instead, can make our communities safer.

How you can help:

Please contact Governor Hogan and encourage him to demonstrate that he is

smart on crime by signing these bills into law now.

Click Here To
TAKE ACTION

MAJR is a nonpartisan, all-volunteer 501(c)4 organization of more than 1800 Marylanders and over 50 endorsing organizations in every part of the state who advocate for evidence-based legislative and policy changes in Maryland's correctional practices. We support effective alternatives to incarceration, policies to address inequities, and efforts to allow citizens returning from prison to lead productive lives.

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