

MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



Maryland General Assembly, in the final hours of the 2022 Session, passed three MAJR priority bills that we hope the Governor will approve and not veto.

The Governor has thirty days from the close of the legislative session to decide whether he will approve or to veto legislation that has made it to his desk. We want him to focus on three bills separately and intend to send him emails in three separate campaigns. We ask for your help in putting pressure on the Governor.

Please urge the Governor to approve these bills to protect our communities and to improve fairness and effectiveness of Maryland's criminal justice system!

Here is the second of these critical bills:

[SB 704 - pretrial release fees.](#)

Currently, a number of counties require someone who has been arrested to pay a pretrial supervision fee to be released before their trial date – while they still are presumed innocent. If the individual is poor and can't afford those pretrial fees, they may be required to await their trial dates in jail simply because of their poverty. [SB 704 would use available federal funds to eliminate those harmful pretrial fees.](#)

Poor citizens should not be held in pretrial detention just because they afford pretrial release fees any more than they should be held in detention because they cannot pay a bail bond that more affluent citizens could pay. The Supreme Court has ruled that "Liberty is the norm, and detention prior to trial or without trial is the carefully limited exception..."

Secondly the failure to maintain such programs for the benefit of citizens is penny-wise and pound-foolish. Maryland pretrial detention costs to our counties, according to recent years' estimates, range from \$83-\$153 per-inmate

per-day. By comparison, pretrial assessment & supervision programs cost approximately \$2.50 per person per day. Once incarcerated on a pretrial basis, studies show that defendants are more likely to receive additional incarceration at sentencing – thus, further increasing taxpayers' burdens.

How you can help:

Please contact Governor Hogan and ask him to approve and not veto this long-needed bill.

Click Here To
TAKE ACTION



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.

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