

MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



How did MAJR fare in 2023?

MAJR efforts, in the 2023 Maryland General Assembly Session, found success in passing some bills, partial-success with others, and still are building support for many more important bills. Here are some highlights:

A. PASSED BOTH HOUSES

<u>Victims of Sex Trafficking – Safe Harbor</u>	Front Door	<u>HB0297</u>	<u>SB0292</u>	Passed: To Governor
Cannabis - reform, regulation, taxing	Front Door	<u>HB0556</u>	<u>SB516</u>	Passed: To Governor
Investigations Division – special police prosecutor	Front Door	<u>HB0857</u>	<u>SB0290</u>	Passed: To Governor
<u>Expungement</u> – REDEEM Act of 2023	Back Door	<u>HB0097</u>	<u>SB0037</u>	Passed: To Governor

B. PASSED ONE HOUSE

Volume Dealers – Cannabis (penalty reduction)	Front Door	<u>HB0135</u>		House: Passed.Senate: Passed; but not completed.
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Driver's Licenses	Front Door	HB326	SB164	Senate:Passed House: Passed (conflict)
Education for All Prisons	Behind Walls	HB0416		House:Passed Senate:Passed (conflict)
Ombudsman	Behind Walls	HB0064	SB0087	Senate: Passed Jud: 1/24
Medical Parole	Behind Walls	HB0047	SB0033	Judic: 3/30 Senate:Passed

C. BILLS OPPOSED BY MAJR that did NOT pass:

No Pleas for Crimes of Violence	Front Door	HB0959		Judic: 2/28
11-year-old Children in Court	Front Door	HB0698		Judic: 3/2
Handgun Penalty	Front Door	HB0481	SB0889	Judic: 2/15
Diminution Credits	Behind Walls		SB0569	JPR: 3/8

The sorely-needed **Correctional Ombudsman bill**--which passed the Senate but was stuck in a House log-jam -- was both our top priority and thus our biggest frustration. We are pretty confident that it should find support to pass in 2024.

Other important bills -- such as ones to require court approval to charging juveniles as adults, to arrange a comprehensive study of prison education, and to make Maryland's felony-murder rules more fair-- also are building support and, we hope, headed for eventual passage.



September 9, 2023

10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

At the University of Baltimore Law School
Criminal Justice Reform Center

Improving Maryland Prisons

A Conference of Concerned Citizens:

- Maryland's Correctional Ombudsman
- Action on Solitary Confinement
- Implementing Model Prisons
- Improving Maryland's Parole System
- Making Reentry Successful
- and other topics of concern.

Pathways to Pretrial Justice - One-Day Virtual Course for Community Advocates



The Pretrial Justice Institute (PJI) is offering a one-day virtual course, **Pathways to Pretrial Justice**, on Tuesday, April 25th, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (ET). The course is designed for **community members and advocates** who are ready to take action in support of equitable pretrial justice.

The course “will explore how the front-end of the system works, including its history, structure, decision points, and current controversies---and the role you

can play in **local antiracist reform**. You'll also learn how to analyze bail hearings, examine recent advocacy efforts, discuss courtwatching strategies, and more."

The cost of the course is \$150 for community members and advocates. **MAJR is offering full scholarships for five MAJR supporters interested in pretrial justice who will commit to attend.** Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you would like to attend the Pathways to Pretrial Justice course using a MAJR scholarship, email Christopher Providence at christopher.providence@gmail.com. For additional information about PJI and their courses, go to www.pretrial.org.

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.

Visit: <http://www.ma4jr.org>

Join Us: <https://www.ma4jr.org/individuals/>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/ma4jr.org/>

Twitter: [@ma4jreform](https://twitter.com/ma4jreform)



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