



CITY COUNCIL BILL: 23-0416
BILL REPORT
BALTIMORE CITY OFFICE OF
RETURNING CITIZENS

TO: The Honorable Nick Mosby, President, Baltimore City Council
FROM: Dana Petersen Moore, Director, Office of Equity and Civil Rights
THRU: Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
ANALYST: Dana Petersen Moore, Director, Office of Equity and Civil Rights and
Baltimore City Chief Equity Officer
DATE: February 26, 2024
POSITION: **Favorable**

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) has reviewed and is herein reporting on City Council Bill 23-0416 – Baltimore City Office of Returning Citizens. The bill establishes a Baltimore City Office of Returning Citizens, defines terms related to the office, provides for the appointment of the Director of the Office, establishes the duties of the office, provides for the office's staff and budget, establishes the "Re-Entry Action Council", provides for the appointment, structure and governance of the Council, requires the Director, Council members and staff of the Office to file financial disclosures, and requires that the Office submit an annual report to the Mayor and City Council.

Further, the bill adds Article 1, sections 59-1 through 5910 to the Baltimore City Code (Edition 2000), and repeals and re-ordains with amendments Article 8, Section 7-8(38a) of the Baltimore City Code (Edition 2000).

IMPACT OF THE BILL

The proposed legislation will address the growing needs of Baltimore's significant number of returning citizens. Serving as a central location for a full array of critical resources, the Office of Returning Citizens will likely play an impactful role in creating employment opportunities, addressing health needs, serving as a resource for housing, and assisting with creating pathways to addressing the negative impacts of incarceration. This in turn will help decrease the rate of recidivism, and help returning citizens and their families adjust to life in the Baltimore community.

ANALYSIS

Council Bill 23-0416 seeks to establish a new office that is focused on addressing the needs of formerly incarcerated persons. The bill is expansive in that the definition of "returning citizen" includes persons who have been involved in the judicial system, but never incarcerated.



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EQUITY ANALYSIS

Council Bill 23-0416 addresses the needs of an underserved population. Does so in a manner that does not take away or interrupt services or benefits to any other demographic. The bill is absent of any apparent or perceived inequitable effect or impact.

CONCLUSION

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights supports a **favorable** committee report on City Council Bill 23-0416.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana P. Moore".

Dana Petersen Moore