



444th Legislative Session - 2022

Out for Justice has spent several years playing “offense” during the Maryland legislative session, working tirelessly with our partners to pass new laws that protect and empower people who are negatively impacted by the legal system. Laws that we helped to pass last year include The Gender-Responsive Pre-release Act (SB684), Repealing the “Unit Rule (HB1336)”, The Value My Vote Act (HB222), Removing the Governor From Parole Decisions (SB202), Eliminating Life Sentences for Youth (SB494), Reducing Home Detention Fees (HB316), and Shortening Incarceration Sentences (HBoo89).

This year, Out for Justice is shifting our attention to holding the State accountable. With Maryland Justice Project, Life After Release and several other partners, we are engaged in a multi-pronged campaign to ensure that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections fulfills their legal obligation to support returning women. In addition, we are closely monitoring a range of bills proposed during this session, including those that impact conditions behind the walls, make courts more accessible, increase criminal record expungement opportunities, reduce incarceration of mothers, and reduce collateral consequences. Our goal in monitoring these proposals is to ensure progress toward decarceration and promoting successful reentry and civic participation for people with criminal records. Lastly, we will continue to support bills led by our organizational and legislative partners that promote equity and justice for communities disproportionately targeted and impacted by the legal system.

Take a look at our legislative tracker for more information about the bills we are following: [HERE](#)