

WHEREAS, There are appropriated but unused funds for the construction of a pre-release center; and

WHEREAS, For women incarcerated in the penal system, counseling services, counseling referral services, support services, educational programs, health facilities, mental health facilities, alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs, and rehabilitation services in general are available but extremely limited and inadequate; and

WHEREAS, The increased availability of those rehabilitation services would enhance these women's chances of success after release from the penal system and would lower their overall rate of recidivism; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Legislative Policy Committee and the Governor are requested to establish a Committee on Correctional Opportunities for Women Offenders to study the status of women convicted of crime in the State and the existing and potential opportunities for rehabilitation of women incarcerated in the Maryland penal system; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Committee be composed of:

(1) 1 member of the House Judiciary Committee and 1 member of the House Appropriations Committee, each appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) 1 member of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and 1 member of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, each appointed by the President of the Senate.

(3) 1 representative of the Division of Parole and Probation in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, appointed by the Director of the Division of Parole and Probation;

(4) 1 representative of the Maryland Correctional Pre-Release System Administration in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, appointed by the Warden of the Maryland Correctional Pre-Release System Administration;

(5) The Warden of the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women;

(6) 1 representative of the State Department of Education, appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools;

(7) 1 representative of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

(8) ~~1 representative of the American Correctional Association~~ 4 members of the public, appointed by the Governor; and be it further