

~~WHEREAS, Over the past 10 years, the Maryland prison population has grown 72 percent, from 12,400 to 21,300 inmates, at a cost of more than \$465 million in capital funds and more than \$206 million annually in operating funds, and a substantial portion of the growth has been low-level, nonviolent offenders and probation violators; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The criminal justice system often fails to adequately consider the rights and concerns of victims of crime, and to require offenders to restore to the fullest extent possible the damages they have inflicted on individuals and the community; and~~

~~WHEREAS, There exist effective intermediate punishments, such as boot camps and home detention, which protect public safety, which serve to punish and incapacitate offenders, which hold offenders accountable to crime victims and the community, and which, because of their emphasis on discipline and the work ethic, are perceived by many offenders to be stricter punishment than incarceration; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The insufficient availability of intermediate punishments throughout the State means that some offenders receive sentences that are too lenient while other offenders occupy prison space that should be used to lengthen sentences for violent offenders; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The development of a sentencing structure that provides for a full continuum of intermediate punishments and sufficient determinacy in sentencing is essential to the most effective allocation of correctional resources for the protection of public safety; now, therefore,~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 41 – Governor – Executive and Administrative Departments**

18-310.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "CHAIRPERSON" MEANS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION.

(3) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL SENTENCING REFORM POLICY.

(4) "CORRECTIONAL OPTIONS PROGRAM" MEANS A CRIMINAL SANCTION OTHER THAN TRADITIONAL PROBATION, TRADITIONAL PAROLE, OR TOTAL CONFINEMENT.

(5) (1) "DESCRIPTIVE SENTENCING GUIDELINES" MEANS A SENTENCING STRUCTURE THAT REFLECTS THE ACTUAL SENTENCING PRACTICES OF JUDGES IN THE STATE OVER A SPECIFIED PERIOD.

(II) "DESCRIPTIVE SENTENCING GUIDELINES" INCLUDES THE CURRENT MARYLAND SENTENCING GUIDELINES.

(6) "GOOD TIME CREDITS" MEANS DEDUCTIONS FROM AN INMATE'S TERM OF CONFINEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 27, § 700(D) OF THE CODE.