



November 2, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

*****For Immediate Release*****

The annual Public Comments Hearing of the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. It will be held in the House of Delegates Office Building, Judiciary Committee Room (Room 100) at 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

The Commission has tentatively, but not officially, approved certain changes to the cell ranges of the Sentencing Matrix for Drug Offenses, pending dissemination and receipt of feedback from relevant practitioners, related parties, and the public. The Commission invites public comment on those changes, which are available at <http://www.msccsp.org/About/Meetings>. The Commission will be considering also an alternative proposal for revised cell ranges. The details of the alternate proposal are available on the same webpage. The Commission welcomes comment on the alternate proposal as well.

Members of the public are invited also to address the Commission with their concerns about other sentencing policy issues in Maryland. To accommodate all who wish to participate in the meeting, the Commission requests that each speaker limit his or her comments to five minutes. The Commission Chair will enforce this limit. All who are interested in speaking at the meeting are asked to confirm their plans for attendance and submit a written version of their testimony in advance at least three days prior to the meeting.

Please confirm your plan for attendance and send written testimony to David Soulé, Executive Director of the Commission, at dsoule@umd.edu.



THE MARYLAND STATE COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL SENTENCING POLICY

Establishment and Charge of the State Commission

The Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP) in May 1999. In July 1999, the MSCCSP formally replaced its predecessor advisory commission, the Maryland Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy. The governing legislation for the MSCCSP, located in Subtitle 2 of Title 6 of the Criminal Procedure Article of the Code of Maryland (Statutes) sets out six legislative goals for sentencing in Maryland, expressing the General Assembly's intention that:

- (1) sentencing should be fair and proportional and that sentencing policies should reduce unwarranted disparity, including any racial disparity, in sentences for criminals who have committed similar crimes and have similar criminal histories;
- (2) sentencing policies should help citizens to understand how long a criminal will be confined;
- (3) sentencing policies should preserve meaningful judicial discretion and sufficient flexibility to allow individualized sentences;
- (4) sentencing guidelines be voluntary;
- (5) the priority for the capacity and use of correctional facilities should be the confinement of violent and career criminals; and
- (6) sentencing judges in the State should be able to impose the most appropriate criminal penalties, including corrections options programs for appropriate criminals.

The MSCCSP was designed and authorized with the purpose of fulfilling those legislative intentions.

MSCCSP Composition

The MSCCSP is composed of the 19 members listed on the next page. The Chair, the Honorable Glenn T. Harrell, Jr., was appointed by the Governor in August 2015.



Current Members of the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy

Members Appointed by the Governor

Chair

Honorable Glenn T. Harrell, Jr.

State's Attorney

Vacant

Criminal Defense Attorney

Richard A. Finci, Esquire

Victims' Advocacy Group

Laura L. Martin, Esquire

Law Enforcement

Colonel William M. Pallozzi

Criminal Justice or Corrections Policy Expert

Brian D. Johnson, Ph.D.

Local Detention Center

LaMonte E. Cooke

Public

Paul F. Enzinna, Esquire

Public

Barbara Dorsey Domer

Members Appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland

Appellate Courts

Honorable James P. Salmon

Circuit Court

Honorable Shannon E. Avery

District Court

Honorable Patrice E. Lewis

Members Appointed by the President of the Senate

Senator

Honorable Lisa A. Gladden

Senator

Honorable Delores G. Kelley

Members Appointed by the Speaker of the House

Delegate

Honorable Curtis S. Anderson

Delegate

Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.

Ex-Officio Members

Attorney General

Honorable Brian E. Frosh

State Public Defender

Paul B. DeWolfe, Esquire

Secretary of Public Safety & Correctional Services

Stephen T. Moyer