



We sent a strong message to violent criminals on the Senate Floor today. You can't kill a police officer and then ask for a second look.

MINORITY LEADER
Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.



MINORITY WHIP
Justin Ready

MARYLAND SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

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Senate Republicans Amend "Second Look Act" on the Floor
Bipartisan support secured for removing early release option for those convicted of murdering first responders in the line of duty

Annapolis, Md. – During today's floor session, Senate Republican successfully amended [HB 853 "The Second Look Act"](#) by securing bipartisan support for removing the early release option for those convicted of murdering first responders in the line of duty. The amendment passed on a close 24-23 vote.

The Maryland Second Look Act would allow individuals serving life sentences to petition for an early release after serving at least 20 years – this includes those convicted of the most violent crimes including rape and murder. This law would apply to those who were ages 18-25 when the crime was committed. These convicts can make repeat petitions, retraumatizing the family and loved ones of the victims over and over again. These "look backs" are in addition to 17 other opportunities for reduced sentences that already exist in Maryland law.

The amendment was offered by Senator Jack Bailey, a retired Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Officer.

"Our neighboring states are willing to protect the people who serve and punish those who murder first responders, but in Maryland we are looking at taking those protections away," said **Senator Bailey**. "I am concerned that without this amendment, somewhere down the line, someone who murders a first responder will receive a sentence that includes the possibility of parole, and this bill will be used to let that murderer out early. And when those individuals who are convicted of murdering first responders are released early, it hurts the families of the fallen first and foremost, but also the community where they lived and served and discourages those who serve us today and those who are considering serving in the future."

The amendment was also supported by Senator William Folden, a career law enforcement officer.

"This bill disregards the people who are willing to provide the blanket of security we sleep under every night, without a second thought of how this blanket of security is provided and the sacrifices they make, and it's not ok,"

said Senator Folden. "This amendment protects first responders, who are there 24 hours a day making sure you are safe in your home and coming to your aid during your worst times."

"Unfortunately, this amendment is not a done deal," said **Senate Minority Leader Steve Hershey**. "Procedural subterfuge and political arm twisting could allow for a motion to reconsider the amendment's vote, or for the amendment to be stripped out on the final third reader vote or even stripped out altogether during the conference committee. It would be a shame to see Democrat leadership manipulate this vote and disregard the moral compass of the members of the Senate who chose to vote their conscience."

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