

WORKGROUP ON HOME DETENTION MONITORING 2025 CY ANNUAL REPORT

Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services

December 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the State Government Article, §2–1257 SB 1095, Ch. 763, 2024, the Workgroup on Home Detention Monitoring is required to submit an annual report on the findings and recommendations to the General Assembly for Calendar Year 2025. The bill language states: (i) On or before December 31 each year, the Workgroup shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

OVERVIEW

The Workgroup shall study and make recommendations regarding the costs and availability of both publicly and privately provided pretrial home detention monitoring systems.

WORKGROUP ACTIVITIES

The first Workgroup on Home Detention Monitoring meeting was conducted on Thursday, October 17, 2024.

The Workgroup on Home Detention Monitoring has conducted meetings on January 10, 2025, February 28, 2025, April 25, 2025, May 16, 2025, June 25, 2025, August 8, 2025, October 6, 2025, November 14, 2025, and December 18, 2025.

The Chairperson is Senator Shelly Hettleman, and the Co-Chairperson is Delegate Nicole Williams for the Workgroup on Home Detention Monitoring.

On June 6, 2025, Ms. Danielle Winchester, Director of Advantage Sentencing, resigned as an appointed representative of a private home detention monitoring agency for the Workgroup on Home Detention Monitoring. The position remains open at this time.

The Job Opportunities Task Force closed for business on June 30, 2025. The organization was stated in the statute as a member of the Workgroup, and it appointed a representative as a member of the Workgroup.

On May 16, 2025, Ms. Jasmine L. Tyler, Executive Director, and Ms. T. Shekhinah Braveheart from the Justice Policy Institute presented on an April 2025 report issued by the Abell Foundation titled “Justice by Geography”: Improving Pretrial Electronic Monitoring in Maryland. Topics included the national landscape of electronic monitoring and pretrial supervision. Research shows electronic monitoring can cause significant harm, and best practice emphasizes limited and targeted use. The presenters discussed their core findings, county policy and practice approaches, insights from people with lived experience on electronic monitoring, recommendations for Maryland, and next steps.

On June 27, 2025, Ms. Tinille Johnson from Carroll County Pretrial Services Unit presented before the group. The topic included: the Pretrial Placement Initial Steps of the process from court/intake to release, electronic monitoring procedures, equipment providers, and fees charged if applicable for the following counties: Allegany, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, and Frederick.

On August 8, 2025, Mr. Leon Epps, Chief U.S. Probation Officer of the District Court of Maryland, presented before the group about federal location monitoring, which is a court-ordered alternative to pretrial detention and imprisonment. Further discussion was on how location monitoring supports public safety, who is monitored, what technologies are used, what is the officer’s role, the officer’s challenges, and what the benefits are. The location monitoring reference guide was reviewed. Mr. Epps shared how the location monitoring works through voice recognition, virtual mobile applications, radio frequency, and global positioning system, authority to impose location monitoring through pretrial, post-conviction, i.e., probation, prerelease custody, supervised release, and intermediate sanction for supervision noncompliance, and use of location monitoring in the field.

On November 14, 2025, Captain Sherri Britt from the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Division of Correction/Home Detention Unit, presented before the group. Captain Britt explained the state government’s role in electronic monitoring as well as the challenges facing the Unit. Correctional officers monitor those on GPS (Global Positioning System) by BI, Incorporated (company name), and routinely and randomly patrol in various communities across the State of Maryland and visit program participants in their homes or in other assigned areas to ensure their conformance with rules and procedures of the Home Detention Program. The Home Detention Unit also inspects for fires and safety hazards and performs testing and searches for alcohol, drugs, and contraband. In addition, they detect program violations and take appropriate action, including counseling, writing reports, physical apprehension and return to custody, and making criminal arrests.

On December 18, 2025, Ms. Brandi Cahn, Assistant Director, Justice Reinvestment Criminal Justice Programs, Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCCP), presented before the group. Ms. Cahn discussed the work group she is staffing under the auspices of GOCCP that is examining the current best practices used in supervision across Maryland’s pretrial system. Assistant Director B. Cahn shared that small groups are examining: the standardization of pretrial terms and levels of supervision; legislation and local rules; detainers and information sharing; private home detention and electronic

monitoring; risk assessments and validation; and data collection and analysis. They updated the information that was surveyed in the Justice Policy Institute's survey of each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions approaching pretrial home monitoring. The survey results from 18 jurisdictions stated that a judicial officer is the final determiner of eligibility in 17 jurisdictions, 13 jurisdictions have written policies/procedures for reporting violations of conditions, and 16 jurisdictions state that judicial authorization, immediate remand, or both may occur as a result of condition violations.

Recommendations have not been made regarding the costs and availability of both publicly and privately provided pretrial home detention monitoring systems. Discussion focused on the importance of coordinating our two groups' efforts on examining pretrial home monitoring and the importance of not being duplicative in our work.