



Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association

44 School Street, Suite 300
Boston, Massachusetts 02108



February 5th, 2024

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Representative Carlos Gonzalez, Co-Chair
Senator Walter F. Timilty, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
(Sent VIA Email Only)

Re: SB1506- An Act Relative to Successful Transition and Re-Entry to Tomorrow for Incarcerated Persons.

Dear Chair Gonzalez and Chair Timilty,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (MSA) and the fourteen duly elected Sheriffs of the Commonwealth, I write in my capacity as Executive Director to ask the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security to support Senate Bill (SB)1506- *An Act Relative to Successful Transition and Re-Entry to Tomorrow for Incarcerated Persons*, filed by Representative Brandy Fluker Oakley and Senator Sal DiDomenico.

Known as the "STARTT Act," this legislation is important because it would simplify the current process that a sentenced person must meet to receive a Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) Identification Card prior to release from correctional custody. The current method requires the need for a permanent residential address at release, and documents to show proof address. These requirements make it extremely challenging for incarcerated individuals to timely obtain an ID card.

By providing individuals with more flexible options for post-release residence such as a family member's home, a temporary group residence, a place of Worship, a community center or a non-profit organization involved with provision of post-release services, this legislation will greatly facilitate more effective means of obtaining an RMV Identification Card. This legislation will facilitate a more effective, smoother transition for individuals back to the community for post-release supports and services that build upon the inmate rehabilitation efforts undertaken during the term of incarceration.

We respectfully request **the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security to report out favorably on this legislation.** Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you require additional information or have any questions.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Carrie Hill
Executive Director, Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association