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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: November 19, 2024

RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SAFER MICHIGAN ACT

Council Member Fred Durhal III requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution in support of the Michigan House Bills 4450-4453 and Senate Bills 861-864, known as the Safer Michigan Act.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

BY COUNCIL MEMBER FRED DURHAL III

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SAFER MICHIGAN ACT

WHEREAS, Every year more than 4,500 returning citizens re-enter our Michigan communities from the Michigan Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, All Michigan residents have a vested interest to ensure that returning citizens have made positive steps toward self-improvement that will allow them to smoothly transition back into society while also reducing the likelihood of repeat offenses; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Legislature has introduced a package of bills known as the “Safer Michigan Act,”¹ which will provide opportunities for people in prison to earn credits to reduce their sentences except for those convicted of the most serious crimes; and

WHEREAS, Research has consistently found that providing incentives for rehabilitation reduces recidivism and decreases crime, and that drug treatment, educational programs, vocational training, and other forms of in-prison programming all reduce recidivism and improve outcomes post-release according to the National Academies of Science; and

WHEREAS, The Safer Michigan Act prioritizes the safety of victims of crime, and provides certainty about how long individuals will spend in prison by informing victims of how much time a defendant will have to serve if they complete programs and earn productivity credits and by providing notification of any parole; and

WHEREAS, Michigan voters overwhelmingly, including victims of crime, support legislation that prioritizes the rehabilitation of incarcerated individuals with the hope that returning citizens have been prepared to reenter their communities with the best possible chance to succeed; and

WHEREAS, If Michigan adopts a productivity credit policy, it will join at least 35 other states that provide opportunities for people in prison to earn credits to reduce their sentences by completing programming; and

WHEREAS, The Detroit City Council remains committed to addressing the effects of crime in Detroit, both by protecting victims and by supporting returning citizens’ ability to become productive and successful community members upon their return; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, The Detroit City Council strongly urges the Michigan legislature to pass Michigan House Bills 4450-4453 and Senate Bills 861-864, known as the Safer Michigan Act; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to the Mayor, to the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate, and to Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

¹ Michigan House Bills 4450-4453 and Senate Bills 861-864.