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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senate Bill 736 - Office of the Attorney General - Mandated Appropriation  
**POSITION: Support**

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe, Members of the Committee:

The Administration supports *Senate Bill 736 - Office of the Attorney General - Mandated Appropriation*, legislation which codifies Governor Hogan's directive to the Attorney General to prosecute violent crimes in Baltimore City.

Baltimore City experienced 348 murders last year. This is an urgent crisis and removing dangerous high-level offenders from our streets is vital to our fight against violent crime. We need an all-hands-on-deck approach and additional resources in the Attorney General's Office will assist in that effort.

On September 18, 2019, pursuant to Article V, § 3 of the Maryland Constitution, Governor Hogan directed the Attorney General to independently investigate and prosecute crimes alleging violation of State criminal laws that relate to crimes of violence, crimes related to firearms, and organized crime in which any element of the crime occurred within Baltimore City.

In response, Attorney General Frosh requested the resources he would need to execute this directive. To meet this request, Governor Hogan's FY 2021 budget includes \$2,547,873 to fund 25 positions in the Attorney General's Office to combat and reduce violent crime in Baltimore City.

The Hogan Administration has provided additional prosecutorial resources at the federal, local, and now state level. At the federal level, the U.S. Attorney's Office receives funding for federal prosecutors to prosecute firearms charges under Project EXILE and the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office is one of two State's Attorney's Offices in the State that receive dedicated funding in the Governor's budget.

The Office of the Attorney General is well-suited to tackle complex violent crime cases that may involve multiple defendants across jurisdictional lines. The \$2.5 million in funding for the Attorney General's Office will only serve to strengthen prosecutions and is yet another tool we can utilize to address this public safety crisis.

For these reasons, the Administration respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 736. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Cara Sullivan, Governor's Office, at 410-974-3336 or [cara.sullivan@maryland.gov](mailto:cara.sullivan@maryland.gov).

