

Senate Bill 43 – Support with Sponsor Amendments

In Maryland as in most states, there are professions that we want to make sure are filled with people that are law-abiding citizens. Included in these professions are teachers, security guards, locksmiths, security equipment installers, private detectives, nurses, and many others. I, as do most people think it is reasonable and prudent to require those people to be fingerprinted to verify their identity and criminal history. What is unreasonable is the need to re-fingerprint those people for each license and the renewals of those licenses. The fingerprints are done with scanners and not the old ink and paper from yesteryear. In the digital format, those prints never fade, smudge and will last forever. The cost of fingerprinting can run from \$40 to as much as \$75 each and we require a separate set of fingerprints for each license applied for even though your fingerprints never change. We have been told for the last 3 years that the FBI was going to begin a program called Rap Back which would greatly reduce the need for resubmission of prints. Each year I heard the same thing, the FBI is dragging their feet, maybe next year. Out of frustration I started digging myself and discovered the program is in fact up and running in 4 states and the holdup is not at the FBI but right here in Maryland, more precisely at The Maryland Dept of Public Safety in the office of Criminal Justice Information Services or CJIS. It seems they have not complied with the requirements of the FBI to participate in the program. The requirements are not insurmountable since 4 states have figured it out. The fact that the program was being sat on by CJIS was not even shared with the State Police Licensing Division. This bill would light the fire under those responsible for the implementation of the program and save the citizens of the state the hundreds of thousands of dollars that are now being wasted on redundant fingerprinting.

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