



JEFFREY R. GAHLER
SHERIFF

HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Senate Bill 138 - Support

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www.harfordsheriff.org

Harford County- Service of Process- Detention Center Employees

Letter of Support to the Senate Judicial Proceedings

January 22, 2020

Chairman Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, I write to you today in full support of Senate Bill 138. This legislation will allow Correctional Deputies in Harford County who are certified in warrant services by the Correctional Training Commission and approved by the Sheriff to serve criminal summons, warrants and charging documents while at the District Court or Circuit Court in Harford County Maryland.

In 1997 the General Assembly passed House Bill 191 which permitted Correctional Officers in facilities overseen by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and local county correctional facilities to serve criminal summons, warrants and charging documents in the facility.

The Harford County Sheriff's Office currently has three Correctional Deputies whom have received the required Maryland Police Training Commission (MPTC) certification on warrant services. Two of the three Deputies are members of our Transport Unit who are assigned to the care and custody of inmates as they are taken from our detention center to the courthouses for judicial hearings. In the last three years these deputies have served nearly 175 warrants on individuals that have been processed at our detention center. Each one of these warrants can take an average of 1½ to 2 hours to fully process. The service of these

warrants, by our trained correctional deputies, have allowed law enforcement deputies to remain on patrol protecting our community.

Allowing these same correctional deputies to utilize their skill and training by giving them the authority to serve warrants at the District and Circuit Courts in Harford County will provide this same efficiency outside of the jail setting and remove the need to have a law enforcement deputy to be pulled from another assignment.

I thank you for your consideration and I am hopeful for your favorable recommendation of this legislation.

Sincerely,
Sheriff Jeffrey R. Gahler