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BILL NO.: **HB 246**

TITLE: **Sexual Solicitation of a Minor – Solicitation Through Parent,
Guardian, or Custodian – Prohibition and Penalties**

SPONSOR: **Delegate Pippy**

COMMITTEE: **Judiciary**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **January 28, 2020**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 246 – Sexual Solicitation of a Minor – Solicitation Through Parent, Guardian, or Custodian – Prohibition and Penalties. This bill would update current laws on sexual solicitation of a minor by including the offense of attempting to gain the consent of someone who is, or is believed to be, the parent, guardian, or custodian of a minor.

Currently, it is illegal to attempt to solicit a minor or a police officer posing as a minor; and violators are guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years and/or a fine of up to \$25,000. The particularly heinous nature of this crime and the variety of means by which it is committed highlights how essential it is that we ensure that any and all attempts to do so are designated as criminal acts.

Legislation such as this would strengthen Baltimore County’s position in the fight to protect the most vulnerable of our residents and sends a strong signal that no acts or attempts to commit acts of sexual abuse will be tolerated.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 246. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, 443-900-6582.