



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 261

DATE: February 4, 2020

SPONSOR: Delegate Dumais

ASSIGNED TO: Judiciary

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (sara.morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT (Montgomery County Department of Police)

Criminal Procedure – Charging Procedures and Documents – Citation

House Bill 261 would expand the definition of what may be written by a police officer as a citation instead of a full custody arrest for a low-level, non-violent offense. The offenses for which an officer may charge by citation are expanded to include possession of a controlled dangerous substance other than marijuana and may not involve serious injury or immediate health risk. Montgomery County Department of Police supports the bill.

Maryland's Justice Reinvestment Act of 2016 was a landmark bill that put the State on a pathway to a more fair and effective criminal justice system. This bill will not only continue that effort by reducing the number of arrests without sacrificing public safety, but it will also help to improve police performance by allowing officers to return more quickly to their duties serving the public.

Montgomery County Department of Police supports HB 261 and urges the Committee to adopt a favorable report.