



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** House Bill 607 - Public Safety - Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence

**SPONSOR:** Delegates Charkoudian, *et al.*

**HEARING DATE:** February 18, 2020

**COMMITTEE:** Judiciary

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 607 - Public Safety - Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence**, which establishes a Crisis Intervention Team Technical Assistance Center (CITTAC) in the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to provide technical support to local governments, law enforcement, public safety agencies, behavioral health agencies, and crises service providers; and, develop and implement a crises international model program. The bill also creates a Collaborative Planning and Implementation Committee for CITTAC and provides for the membership and duties of the committee.

The Prince George's County Department of Corrections (DOC) has observed an increase in the number of employees who have experienced issues of personal crises. The County's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) program is used in such instances to offer these employees support and has been utilized by other jurisdictions who lack similar programming.

A recent example involved supporting colleagues of a correctional officer in a neighboring jurisdiction who tragically died some months ago. That particular jurisdiction lacks a CISM program, yet many of their employees were distraught by the officer's death. The Prince George's County DOC offered CISM services in support as they dealt with the tragedy. This is an example of why critical incident management programs are important, especially in public safety environments. This legislation would establish minimum requirements and standards for a Critical Incident Training program; and in the unfortunate event that an incident occurs effecting multiple jurisdictions, all the local CIT programs would have the ability to respond in a coordinated effort.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 607** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.