

MICHELE GUYTON  
Legislative District 42B  
Baltimore County

Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Finance Resources Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 306  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3793 · 301-858-3793  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3793  
Michele.Guyton@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**In Support of HB193 Criminal Procedure - Victims of Crime - Private Room**

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I ask for your consideration and favorable report on HB193 to require law enforcement agencies to provide a private room upon request for victims reporting crimes of a sensitive nature (under Title 3 of the Criminal Law Article) and to post signage to that effect.

Best practices for sexual assault investigations include ensuring the privacy of victims and providing sensitive, respectful, trauma informed support to victims of sexual assault from the first encounter with law enforcement throughout the investigation and prosecution of the offense. This not only reduces re-victimization but encourages reporting of a seriously under-reported offenses and aids in the successful prosecution of the case.

HB 193 was born of constituent concerns after a police precinct in my District required a minor female to describe the specific nature of her sensitive complaint in the public lobby and through a security window while others looked on. Obviously this incident was traumatic and inappropriate.

In response to the lack of guidance on best practices throughout the state, I introduce HB193 which requires signage that a private room is available to anyone reporting crimes of a sensitive nature and requires that law enforcement agencies honor such a request.

I ask for a favorable report on HB193, a simple bill designed to protect victims of sexual assault from further traumatization and invasion of privacy.

Sincerely,  
Delegate Michele Guyton