



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

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Office of Government and Legislative Affairs
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STATE OF MARYLAND

BILL: SENATE BILL 118

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

POSITION: SUPPORT

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

EXPLANATION: This bill transfers the Warrant Apprehension Unit (Unit) from the Division of Parole and Probation to the Intelligence and Investigative Division (IID) to reflect the current, and preferred, reporting structure.

ROBERT L. GREEN
SECRETARY

RACHEL SESSA
CHIEF OF STAFF

COMMENTS:

CHRISTOPHER McCULLY
DEPUTY SECRETARY
ADMINISTRATION

WAYNE
ACTING
DEPUTY SECRETARY
OPERATIONS

The Warrant Apprehension Unit was statutorily established in June 2011, so its employees could be reclassified as police and law enforcement officers with the powers and protection afforded to these positions. The Unit executes warrants to retake offenders and to arrest persons who violate the conditions of probation. The Unit also obtains and executes search warrants.

CAROLYN J. SCRUGGS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

GARY W. McLHINNEY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

CATHERINE KAHL
ACTING DIRECTOR

- Although the Unit is statutorily required to report to the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP); the Unit was operationally transferred under special operations to dovetail with and support IID in 2015 as its mission aligns more appropriately. The Unit has continued under IID ever since. This bill would simply codify that transfer.
- The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Department) currently employs approximately 66 sworn law enforcement officers – 39 directly in IID and 27 in the Unit. It is a better management practice to have these members supervised by a chain of command that includes sworn senior level management.
- Additionally, the Unit's role has expanded to serve not only DPP, but also the Division of Corrections and the Department's Human Resources Services Division, specifically assisting with:
 - Apprehending individuals who walk off or abscond from the Department's Home Detention program.
 - Serving indictments and warrant service during special operations.
 - Serving termination papers on certain Departmental employees after separation from the agency

- The Unit's officers are also assigned to various State and local warrant task forces and assist in the handling of inter-state extraditions for parole violators.

CONCLUSION: For these reasons, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully asks this Committee vote **FAVORABLE** on Senate Bill 118.