



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Dept.

RE: Senate Bill 585 Warrant Apprehension Reduction Grant

DATE: February 23, 2022

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** Senate Bill 585.

Senate Bill 585 requires the Governor to include \$2,000,000 in the annual budgets for 2024 through 2026 for local law enforcement agencies to be used as grants for warrant apprehension efforts. Local law enforcement can use the grants that will be administered through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services, to reduce warrants in the agency's jurisdiction; increase coordination and cooperation between local law enforcement and state and federal agencies regarding outstanding warrants; and to reduce the number of outstanding warrants related to violent crimes. Agencies that receive a grant under this program must report to the GPCPYS the following information: proof of the expenditure of the grant funds and the purposes for which the funds were expended; total warrants in the jurisdiction by type of warrant and related offense; total number of warrants reduced and suspects apprehended, delineated by offense as well as any related out-come based performance measures required.

Swiftly and safely executing warrants to apprehend wanted criminals is a vital component to providing for the public's safety. The program created by this bill will provide additional much-needed resources to those agencies, like the Baltimore Police Department, who need assistance serving warrants to ensure that criminals, especially violent criminals, are locked up so that they cannot cause any additional harm to the individuals and/or the communities that they have already victimized.

Therefore, the Baltimore Police Department respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 585.