



**LARRY HOGAN**  
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February 23, 2022

Chair William C. Smith, Jr.  
Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher  
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Senate Bill 585 - Warrant Apprehension Reduction Grant**

#### **Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

The Administration supports Senate Bill 585 - Warrant Apprehension Reduction Grant. This legislation would provide grant funding that would enable local law enforcement agencies to reduce warrants in the agency's jurisdiction, increase coordination and cooperation between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies regarding outstanding warrants, and ultimately reduce the number of outstanding warrants related to violent crimes and create safer streets in our communities. The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services would administer the grants. We would like to thank the sponsor for his sponsorship of this legislation and for acknowledging effective solutions that align with our shared goals of reducing violent crime and removing violent offenders from our streets.

Local law enforcement agencies are responsible for executing warrants for arrest that are ordered by the court. It is imperative that our law enforcement agencies have the resources necessary to apprehend individuals who have open warrants out for their arrest, and we must prioritize the arrest of violent offenders to better ensure the safety of our neighborhoods. By providing additional resources and encouraging more collaboration across all levels of law enforcement, we will be able to address open warrants in a timely manner. The Warrant Apprehension Reduction Grant will serve the goal of fostering safer communities by prioritizing the most violent offenders and criminal organizations.

Just last week, Governor Hogan joined the U.S. Marshall for the District of Maryland, Mayor of Baltimore, and Baltimore Police Commissioner to announce the results of "Operation Washout II," which resulted in the arrests of over 100 individuals with outstanding warrants for violent crimes and the closure of more than 200 open warrants during a two week period. Numerous similar warrant apprehension sweeps have been conducted through the Governor's term in office. These collaborations include state, local, and federal officers, and highlights the successful work that can be accomplished when we are laser-focused on reducing violent crime.

The Hogan Administration is committed to assisting local jurisdictions with warrant apprehension, and does so with the Warrant Apprehension Unit within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; partnerships between the Department of Juvenile Services and the Baltimore City Police Department Warrant Apprehension Task Force; and the

Maryland State Apprehension Team within the Maryland State Police (MSP). Recently, the Baltimore Police Department finally began providing MSP, Maryland's finest law enforcement agency, with Part 1 offense warrants, which provides an effective partnership to remove the violent offenders terrorizing communities in the City.

Public safety remains a top priority for Governor Hogan, and this bill provides another tool in the toolbox as we seek to effectively reduce violent crime and protect our communities. This bill also aligns well with the Governor's Re-Fund The Police initiative, which is aimed at providing much-needed support and resources to state and local police agencies in their efforts to fight violent crime.

For these reasons, the Administration supports Senate Bill 585 and respectfully requests a favorable report. For additional details, please contact Erin Chase, Deputy Legislative Officer, at 410-974-3336 or [erin.chase1@maryland.gov](mailto:erin.chase1@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keiffer J. Mitchell, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Keiffer J. Mitchell, Jr.  
Chief Legislative Officer