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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401



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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 585
Warrant Apprehension Reduction Grant

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

I write to urge you to **support** Senate Bill 585. In efforts to reduce the vast number of outstanding warrants, as well as increase efficiency and coordination amongst Maryland's local law enforcement, State agencies, and federal agencies, I propose grants for warrant apprehension reduction.

Currently, there is an increased need to lower the number of warrants in the State of Maryland, especially outstanding warrants for violent crimes. Furthermore, this task requires expanded and integrated cooperation between local law enforcement, State, and federal agencies. These efforts call for increased funding. By requiring the Governor to appropriate \$2.0 million in the annual budget bills for fiscal years 2024, 2025, and 2026, the funds needed to support these warrant apprehension initiatives will be allocated. Under the proposed bill, grant funds will be administered by The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCYPVS) to law enforcement agencies for limited uses—which are specifically and narrowly centered upon reducing warrants and increasing collaborative practices amongst the interrelated agencies. As a means of transparency and accountability, law enforcement agencies that receive grants are mandated to submit information to GOCYPVS's Executive Director, pursuant to the provisions of this bill.

By requiring the appropriation of warrant apprehension grant funds in future annual budget bills, the General Assembly will be making considerable steps towards efficiently pursuing non-violent and violent offenders, which will contribute to the decrease of crimes within our State. The provision of warrant apprehension grant funds will support efficient practices within our law enforcement and counterpart agencies—benefitting Maryland altogether.

If enacted, Senate Bill 585 will take effect on July 1, 2022, and the Governor will be required to modify the annual budget bills for FY '24 through '26 to include the funds for this specific grant allocation.

In support of these efforts, I urge you to give a favorable report of Senate Bill 585.

Respectfully submitted,



Cory V. McCray

State Senator, 45th District