



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
CARROLL COUNTY DELEGATION

March 8, 2024

Support House Bill 720

Carroll County – Deputy Clerk or Deputy Sheriff – Oath of Office

Environment & Transportation Committee

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 720.

This bill was brought to the Carroll County Delegation by our Sheriff and Clerk of the Court. It is their opinion that this technical corrective change for our Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Clerks should be administered to the I-9 oath instead of the 2-104 (b) oath for the following reasons:

- The current oath prescribed by the 2-104 is limited and does not align with the responsibilities or the full scope of services which Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Clerks provide to the citizens of Carroll County.
- The current oath prescribed by the 2-104 statute does not require Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Clerks
 - To bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland and support its Constitution and its laws.
 - To fulfill their duties (or execute their office) according to the Maryland Constitution and Maryland law without partiality or prejudice.
 - To swear or affirm that they will support the Constitution of the United States
 - To perform all duties diligently and faithfully
- There is already an exception provided to Montgomery County and Washington County for the administration of the I-9 oath to their Deputy Sheriffs and Deputy Clerks in the Maryland Statute Courts & Proceedings Title 2 – Court Personnel, Subtitle 1 – Officers, Oaths and Bonds, Section 2-104 – Oaths or Affirmations
- This modification would be simple and only affect Carroll County
- Currently there is no known opposition to this modification.
- The change to this procedure of oath administration would fall solely on the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Carroll County. There would be no fiscal increase for this change in code and no additional training costs associated with this change.

The Carroll County Delegation voted unanimously to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I again ask for a favorable report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "April Rose". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Delegate April Rose