



Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

3300 North Ridge Road, Suite 185

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

410-203-9881

FAX 410-203-9891

Rich Gibson
President

Steven I. Kroll
Coordinator

DATE: **March 7, 2024**

BILL NUMBER: **SB 899**

POSITION: **Favorable with Amendment**

The Maryland State's Attorney's Association (MSAA) supports SB 899 with an amendment that would include the personal information of elected State's Attorneys within the bill's ambit.

High-ranking public officials fulfilling constitutional obligations deserve to be able to make difficult decisions without fearing for their safety or that of their family. SB 899 protects these officials by providing a mandatory exception to the general right of access to public records contained in the Maryland Public Information Act, codified in MD. CODE ANN., GEN. PROV. § 4-101 *et seq.*, requiring records custodians to deny access to the personal information of constitutional officers and their families. The bill also provides constitutional officers and their families with a mechanism to remove their personal information from public view.

However, SB 899's definition of "constitutional officers" – limited to current and former governors, lieutenant governors, attorneys general, comptrollers, and state treasurers – is unduly narrow, and leaves out an important group of elected officials that also carry out constitutional obligations and, by virtue of their responsibilities, are often the target of aggrieved persons: Maryland's State's Attorneys. By including elected prosecutors within this bill's protection, we take an important step towards ensuring all constitutional officers in Maryland can provide for their own safety and the safety of their families while carrying out their constitutional duties.