

Constitutional Officers - Favorable.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Myles Hicks

Position: FAV

**STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



WES MOORE.
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
(410) 974-3901
(TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice-chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of Governor Moore, I urge a favorable report on SB899 - Constitutional Officers – Public Disclosure of Personal Information. This legislation would allow the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, and State Treasurer's home address and personal phone number to be protected at their request. It also allows the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, and State Treasurer to seek damages from a person if they are injured because their personal information is not removed within 72 hours.

Due to the prominence of these statewide elected officials they receive security from the Executive Protection Unit. The Governor receives security around the clock while the Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, and State Treasurer only receive security while they are on state business. This opens the door for additional security risks as the Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller and State Treasurer go about their personal business.

In 2022, Maryland made history by electing the state's first Black Governor, the first woman of color to serve as Lieutenant Governor, the first woman Comptroller, and first Black Attorney General. The decisions that these statewide elected officials make can have profound impacts on Marylanders that can lead to threats against them or their family members. We must take the necessary steps to protect their personal information to ensure that threats from the public can be mitigated.

Sincerely,
Myles Hicks
Deputy Legislative Officer
Office of the Governor

BaltimoreCounty_FWA_SB0899.pdf

Uploaded by: John Olszewski

Position: FWA

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive



JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: **SB 899**

TITLE: **Constitutional Officer – Public Disclosure of Personal Information**

SPONSOR: **Senator Waldstreicher**

COMMITTEE: **Judicial Proceedings**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

DATE: **March 7, 2024**

Baltimore County **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** Senate Bill 899 – Constitutional Officers – Public Disclosure of Personal Information, a timely effort to protect the private information of certain political figures.

SB 899 prohibits posting on the internet or otherwise making publicly available the home address or personal telephone number of a current or former governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller, or state treasurer. Furthermore, SB 899 would authorize a civil cause of action for damages arising from disclosure of such private information. With swatting, when pranksters make illegal and dangerous fake emergency calls in hopes of sending armed police to raid a person’s home, on the rise, Baltimore County is concerned that this dangerous practice will be increasingly used as a weapon of political retaliation and intimidation in a contentious political climate.

Baltimore County would support an amendment to the bill covering local officials such as County Executives, County Administrative Officers, and members of County Councils across the State of Maryland.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on SB 899 from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.

SB 899 - MSAA FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Patrick Gilbert

Position: FWA



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.

2024-HB0878-SB899-UNFavUNCONSTITUTIONAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Nelda Fink

Position: UNF

HB0878 / SB0899 – UNFAVORABLE UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Nelda Fink

MD District 32

If someone causes damage to my property or injury to myself in any way, I need that person's address in order to file a law suit or to bring criminal actions against them. This is basic law that is enacted from our Constitution. Taking away the ability to protect myself from individuals who inflict harm is UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

Just because the people identified in this bill have previously served in the public view does not put them above the law. If they were true constitutional officers in the first place while in office they wouldn't need this quasi-immunity being introduced with this bill.

Very UNCONSTITUTIONAL when certain individuals are exempt from being held accountable to the law.

This is UNCONSTITUTIONAL! It must have an UNFAVORABLE report and should be withdrawn.

100% OPPOSE this bill.

Thank you.

Nelda Fink