

SB0929 FAIR Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Brenda Jones

Position: FAV

Favorable Response to SB0929
Sex Offender Registration – Local Law Enforcement Units – Registration Locations

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR) seeks rational, constitutional sexual offense laws and policies for persons accused and convicted of sexual offenses. We support SB0929.

Under existing law, individuals are required to register periodically by reporting in person to their Local Law Enforcement Unit for as long as they remain on the registry. In general, Tier 1 and Tier 2 registrants are required to re-register every 6 months; for Tier 3 registrants, re-registration is required every three months. Individuals who are homeless must re-register in person weekly.

Many Registered individuals have difficulty with transportation and are required to travel to a single, designated registration facility in their County, which may be miles away from them with no public transportation available. This creates a difficult and, for some, costly process, in particular for those registrants who are homeless and must report to remote registration facilities on a weekly basis. If passed, this bill will ease the burden on many Registered individuals.

Although FAIR believes ultimately that registration serves no useful community safety purpose, proponents argue that knowing where registrants are is useful. If so, providing more locations and easier access to registrants will improve the accuracy of the listings, and reduce noncompliance with registry requirements.

Having fewer people noncompliant is also better for the State's budget, because less money is spent tracking down, arresting, and incarcerating people who for the large part would comply if they were able.

We urge the committee to vote in favor of SB0929.

Sincerely,



Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director
Families Advocating Intelligent Registries

MCPA - MSA SB 929-Sex Offender Registry-Oppose.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: UNF



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith Jr., Chair and
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: March 5, 2024

RE: **SB 929 – Sex Offender Registration – Local Law Enforcement Units –
Registration Locations**

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **OPPOSE SB 929**. This bill requires each local law enforcement agency to designate multiple locations, geographically distributed throughout the county, where a registrant can register on the Maryland Sex Offender Registry.

Under current law, a sex offender must register in person with the local law enforcement unit of each county where the sex offender resides within three days of release from any period of imprisonment or arrest or register with the supervising authority if the registrant is moving into the State and the local law enforcement unit is not the supervising authority. In each jurisdiction, it is the primary local law enforcement agency that has been designated as the agency where the registration and periodic check-ins take place.

SB 929 requires each law enforcement agency, many of which are not the primary law enforcement agency, to become an agency where individuals can register and perform periodic check-ins. This would take significant training and resources for each agency to perform these functions. In addition to training and staff, it also requires agencies to put security measures in place, some of which could be costly considering the limited space of some agencies. Further, the populations of some jurisdictions do not warrant multiple locations being established for this purpose.

After talking with the sponsor's office, MCPA and MSA are aware of limited circumstances in larger jurisdictions where this has become an issue. A better approach may be to address the issues within those jurisdictions.

Although MCPA and MSA oppose this legislation, we offer the following suggestions for consideration.

- Narrow the scope of the bill to the primary law enforcement agency in each jurisdiction – this would be the County Police Department or Sheriffs’ Office.
- Further narrow the scope to those jurisdictions with populations over 500,000. This targets the jurisdictions where there may be more of a problem for individuals meeting the registry requirements. It would also target those with resources and staff to meet the new requirement.
- Require the applicable jurisdictions to designate two locations.

SB0929-JPR_MACo_LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Sample

Position: INFO



Senate Bill 929

Sex Offender Registration – Local Law Enforcement Units – Registration Locations

MACo Position:

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

LETTER OF INFORMATION

Date: March 5, 2024

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) offers this **LETTER OF INFORMATION** on SB 929. This bill mandates that local law enforcement agencies designate multiple locations across a jurisdiction for sex offenders to fulfill their register requirement in person.

Registering as a sex offender is an important accountability procedure for certain individuals with specific types of violations. Due to the nature of their crimes, the registration process can be complicated, and sensitive, if the individual opts to register in person. The safety and security of staff and the offender are paramount.

To comply with best practices, based on the mandates of this bill, each local law enforcement agency would be required to provide a separate space, staff, and equipment to fulfill the registration. This is necessary to protect the individual's privacy and safety. Additionally, staff members must be designated according to their willingness and ability to interact firsthand with a sex offender.

While counties believe offering a safe and secure in-person option is necessary, having them in more than two locations per jurisdiction is not operationally or financially feasible. To make the provisions of the bill more practical counties would make the below suggestions:

- narrow the mandate to the primary, county law enforcement agency per jurisdiction
- require multiple locations only for large jurisdictions with a population over 500,000
- designate two locations for large jurisdictions

Counties believe these adjustments will help fulfil the intent of the bill and allow for an efficient and orderly implementation. To that end, MACo willingly offers this **LETTER OF INFORMATION** on SB 929.