



**State of Maryland**  
**Department of State Police**  
Government Affairs Unit  
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

**POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**DATE:** March 5, 2024

**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 1419      **POSITION:** Letter of Information

**BILL TITLE:** Criminal law – Deed Fraud – Prohibition and Deed Fraud Prevention Grant Fund

**REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

This legislation prohibits the fraudulent sale, conveyance, or lease or attempted sale, conveyance or lease of real property by a person who does not own the property. The legislation requires the Department of State Police to collect, analyze, and disseminate disaggregated information on the incidents of fraud, specific to deed fraud and manage the Deed Fraud Prevention Grant Fund.

Under current law, the Department of State Police (DSP) is the central repository for crime data. In accordance with the FBI National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), law enforcement agencies submit their crime data in accordance with NIBRS guidelines. In accordance with NIBRS, the DSP collects certain fraud information as defined by the FBI, specifically; false pretenses, credit card, impersonation, welfare, identity theft, computer invasion, and money laundering. While the DSP collects information on crimes of fraud as defined by the FBI, local law enforcement agencies do not report and the DSP does not collect crime data specific to Deed Fraud.

Since 2018, Maryland law enforcement agencies have been working towards compliance with the FBI NIBRS reporting requirements. Each agency is responsible for the selection and acquisition of a NIBRS compliant Report Management System. The DSP and the majority of reporting agencies, have acquired a NIBRS system at great expense.

House Bill 1419 will require every agency to pay to have their systems reprogrammed to capture the “Deed Fraud” crime as defined in the legislation, not as defined by the FBI. This creates an enormous cost for the DSP and local law enforcement agencies to capture a crime that cannot be reported to the FBI but maintained only by the state.

Regarding the requirement to administer the Deed Fraud Prevention Grant Fund, the Department of State Police is not a grant management agency. DSP does not award grants or manage the grants awarded to others. The DSP does have an internal grants unit that applies for grants to help support the DSP’s mission.