



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of Government & Legislative Affairs

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BILL: HOUSE BILL 942

POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION

EXPLANATION: House Bill 942 will require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to administer a Crime Solvers Reward Fund for the purpose of providing grants to law enforcement agencies or county reward programs to issue rewards to individuals who provide information to a law enforcement agency relevant to an investigation of murder or attempted murder involving a handgun.

COMMENTS:

- The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services' (Department) Division of Correction operates 13 State correctional facilities housing offenders sentenced to periods of incarceration for 18 months and longer. The Department also oversees five facilities located in Baltimore City that houses pretrial detainees and incarcerated individuals sentenced to incarceration for periods of 18 months and less.
- The Department is not a State Administering Agency for grants. The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) is the entity that administers grants in the State.
- The GOCCP is the designated State Administering Agency for Maryland. The role of the office is responsible for comprehensive criminal justice planning and policy development within the State. As the State Administering Agency, the office allocates resources statewide and acts to distribute, monitor, and report on spending under many State and federal programs.
- The GOCCP follows a deliberate process to ensure it is a good steward of the funds administered, and that its grant administration process is efficient, customer-friendly, and aligned directly with its strategic goals, and administers the Grant Management System for tracking the grant process from application through distribution.

- As such, the GOCCP is best suited to implement the requirements under HB 942.
- **CONCLUSION:** reasons, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as it deliberates House Bill 942.