

BILL NO: House Bill 1127  
TITLE: Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations Conducted Through Telehealth -  
Reimbursement and Study  
COMMITTEE: Judiciary  
HEARING DATE: February 20, 2024  
POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

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House Bill 1127 would allow “peer-to-peer” sexual assault forensic examinations via telehealth. The Women’s Law Center of Maryland (WLC) supports HB1127 with amendments we understand are being submitted to clarify an issue, because it will increase access, in a medically acceptable manner, to sexual assault forensic examinations.

The Maryland Attorney General’s Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Kit Policy and Funding Committee made the recommendation leading this bill (and a companion bill, HB 1047). HB 1127 is modeled loosely after a program in Pennsylvania and will allow a forensic nurse in one location to use telehealth to direct a qualified health care provider who is performing an exam on a patient/survivor in another location. Right now, only certain hospitals are allowed to conduct SAFE exams. HB 1127 will make it more accessible to survivors who need this service.

As such, The Women’s Law Center of Maryland urges a favorable report on HB 1127.

*The Women’s Law Center of Maryland is a non-profit legal services organization whose mission is to ensure the physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy of women in Maryland. Our mission is advanced through direct legal services, information and referral hotlines, and statewide advocacy.*